



## John of Gaunt

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**Start date** 8 April 2016

**End date** 10 April 2016

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Tutor** Dr Rosemary Horrox

**Course code** 1516NRX055

**Director of Public Programmes** Emma Jenkins

For further information on this  
course, please contact

Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr  
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Rosemary Horrox MA PhD FRHistS, Fellow, Director of Studies in History and Admissions Tutor (Arts) of Fitzwilliam College; Director of Studies in History of St Edmund's College.

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## Course Programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and Coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 - 22:00	<b>The man and his family</b>
22.00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07.30	Breakfast
9.00 – 10.30	<b>The king's son</b>
10.30	Coffee
11.00– 12.30	<b>The king's uncle</b>
13.00	Lunch
14.00 -16:00	Free
16.00	Tea
16.30 – 18.00	<b>The duke of Lancaster</b>
18.30	Dinner
20.00 – 21:30	Lifestyle
21.30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07.30	Breakfast
9.00 – 10.30	<b>Religion</b>
10.30	Coffee
11.00 – 12.30	<b>Death</b>
12.40	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

To explore fourteenth-century political culture, religion and society through the medium of a study of the career of John of Gaunt.

### Content:

John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster and putative king of Castile, is one of the best-known and best-documented of the medieval English nobility. Unlike the subjects of two earlier Madingley weekend courses, William Marshal and Richard Beauchamp, he attracted no contemporary biographer, but the accession of his son Henry Bolingbroke in 1399 ensured that Gaunt's muniments entered the royal archives. He also caught the attention of a number of major chroniclers, including Thomas Walsingham and Henry Knighton.

Different phases of his career will act as a springboard into wider discussion of contemporary politics and society, including English military and diplomatic involvement in France and Iberia, and the rising of 1381 in which Gaunt was perceived as one of the rebels' chief targets and his great palace of the Savoy sacked. As duke of Lancaster he has been seen as the classic example of the late-medieval 'overmighty' subject although his power in the localities was less important in defining his role than his positioning at the heart of the royal family.

More thematic sessions will use the example of Gaunt to consider the noble lifestyle, late medieval religion and death. Gaunt's lifetime saw the emergence of growing anti-papalism in England and an awareness, for the first time, of homegrown heresy in the form of John Wyclif and his followers. Gaunt was an early supporter of Wyclif, although his own religious views appear to have been orthodox.

### Presentation of the course:

Throughout the course will draw on contemporary sources and teaching will be by a combination of lecture and class discussion.

### Outcomes:

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should:**

1. Acquire an appreciation of Gaunt's career and the extent to which it was atypical of contemporary nobility.
2. Understand changes in fourteenth-century society and culture, including their economic context.

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## Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

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### Recommended reading:

The definitive biography is Anthony Goodman, *John of Gaunt* (Longman, 1992)

Gaunt appears in most works on the reigns of Edward III and Richard II. The relevant volumes in the Yale English Monarchs series are by W.M. Ormrod and Nigel Saul respectively.

A just-published volume in the Manchester Medieval Sources series, Alison McHardy, *The Reign of Richard II* (Manchester, 2012) contains useful material on Gaunt.

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of 22 January 2016*