

Oliver Cromwell and the English Revolution

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| Start date | 14 July 2023 | End date | 16 July 2023 |
| Venue | Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge CB23 8AQ | | |
| Tutor | Dr David Smith | Course code | 2223NRX039 |

For further information contact inteng@ice.cam.ac.uk

Tutor biography

David teaches in many different course formats at ICE, from weekend courses and day schools to Summer Programme courses in History. He served on the Management Board of the Institute of Continuing Education from 2005-2008, and he became an Affiliated Lecturer at ICE in 2012. David has been a Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, since 1988. He has been a Director of Studies in History since 1992, and a Graduate Tutor since 2004. At Selwyn he has also served as Admissions Tutor (1992-2003), and as Praelector (1996-2006). He has been an Affiliated Lecturer in the Cambridge History Faculty since 1995.

David particularly enjoys teaching adult students, as they bring a wide range of perspectives to bear, as well as great enthusiasm and commitment. His courses involve extensive use of primary sources, and each class involves discussion of these.

Course programme

Friday

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

- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 – 22:00 Cromwell's early life and career, 1599-1642**
- 22:00 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

- 07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)
- 09:00 – 10:30 Cromwell and the English Civil Wars, August 1642 – August 1648**
- 10:30 Coffee
- 11:00 – 12:30 From Regicide to Republic, August 1648 – April 1653**
- 13:00 Lunch
- 13.45 Free time
- 16.00 Tea
- 16:30 – 18.00 From Commonwealth to Protectorate, April 1653 – January 1655**
- 18:00 – 18:30 Free time
- 18:30 Dinner
- 20.00 – 21:30 The Later Years of the Protectorate, January 1655 – September 1658**
- 21.30 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

- 07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)
- 09:00 – 10:30 Cromwell's historical reputation**
- 10:30 Coffee
- 11:00 – 12:30 Discussion**
- 12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

1. Examine Cromwell's life and career in the context of his times
2. Explore the nature of his beliefs and motives through a range of primary and secondary sources.

Content:

This weekend course will examine in detail the personality and career of Oliver Cromwell, and place it in the context of the unique and dramatic events that gripped mid-17-century England. The classes will explore Cromwell's life and career in a series of chronological sections, from his birth in 1599, through his rise to military prominence during the 1640s and his gaining of political power in the 1650s, up to his death in 1658. Throughout, the classes will focus especially on what Cromwell sought to achieve, the methods he employed, and the reasons why he proved unable to establish a stable regime during the period of the English Republic (1649-60). Particular attention will be paid to the light that Cromwell's personality throws on the unfolding of events, the motives that guided him and the relationship between his ideas and his actions.

Presentation of the course:

The seven sessions will involve a mixture of lectures and discussions.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Gain an understanding of Cromwell's life and career within the context of his times
2. Identify and evaluate some of the different ways in which Cromwell's life has been interpreted
3. Form their own view of Cromwell's beliefs, significance, impact on his times, and legacy.

Reading and resources list

Any information about reading and resources here.

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.

| Author | Title | Publisher |
|---|--|---|
| Surveys of English history during Cromwell's lifetime : | | |
| AYLMER G E | <i>Rebellion or Revolution? England, 1640-1660</i> | Oxford, 1986 |
| COWARD B | <i>The Stuart Age</i> | 2 nd edition, Longman, 1994 |
| HIRST D | <i>England in Conflict 1603-1660</i> | Arnold, 1999 |
| SMITH D L | <i>A History of the Modern British Isles, 1603-1707: The Double Crown</i> | Blackwell, 1998 |
| Studies of Cromwell's personality and career: | | |
| COWARD B | <i>Oliver Cromwell</i> | Longman, 2000 |
| DAVIS J C | <i>Oliver Cromwell</i> | Arnold, 2001 |
| GAUNT P | <i>Oliver Cromwell</i> | Blackwell, 1996 |
| MORRILL, J | <i>Oliver Cromwell</i> | Oxford, 2007 |
| MORRILL, J (ed.) | <i>Oliver Cromwell and the English Revolution</i> | Longman, 1991 |
| SMITH D L | <i>Oliver Cromwell: Politics and Religion in the English Revolution, 1640-1658</i> | Cambridge, 1991 |
| SMITH D L (ed.) | <i>Cromwell and the Interregnum</i> | Blackwell, 2003 |