



Weekend Courses 2024-25

Case studies in English Royal art and architecture, c.1450-1550

Start date: 18 October 2024 **End date:** 20 October 2024

Venue: Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor: Dr Jonathan Foyle **Course Code:** 2425NRX002

Tutor biography

Dr Jonathan Foyle is best known for television broadcasts on numerous channels, including BBC2's 'Climbing Great Buildings' and BBC4's 'Henry VIII: Patron or Plunderer?'

Having studied Architecture at Canterbury and History of Art at the Courtauld Institute, he became Curator of Historic Buildings at Hampton Court and Kew Palace, taking a PhD in Archaeology which offered an evidenced reconstruction of Wolsey's Hampton Court. After 8 years at the head of World Monuments Fund Britain, managing conservation projects on a range of major buildings, he wrote six monographs on English cathedrals. He is now a lecturer in Architectural History and Conservation at the University of Bath, an author and broadcaster.

Summary of content:

The course represents two decades of investigations into Tudor arts. You will be introduced to the centre of late medieval and early Tudor royalty: Westminster Palace and Abbey. The development of this complex embodied ideas that proved pervasive into the Tudor era, while we see regional expression in an example of royal identity in Coventry at the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses in the 1450s. The arrival of the Tudor monarchy in 1485 saw extraordinary new furniture - only recently identified - that carried a particular aesthetic and set of messages of royal salvation after war. This gave way to new ideas in the reign of Henry VIII, when the politics of papal Rome and the identity of his queens broadcast their own messages. We tend to assume royal patronage was the apogee - but was Henry VIII in the vanguard, or the guard's van?

Aims:

This course aims to:

- demonstrate how to interpret late medieval symbolism as a visual language
- clarify techniques for identification and attribution
- show how meaning was embodied in principles rather than copying prototypes

Course sessions

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	1. Background: Westminster Palace and Abbey c.1050-1512
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	2. 1450-80: The Window of Kings and Tapestry in St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry; St George's Chapel, Windsor
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	3. The Language of Early Tudor Royal Arts
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	4. Late 15th-century Royal Furniture and Fixtures
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	5. Cardinal Wolsey's Hampton Court: England meets Italy
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	6. Henry VIII: Politics, Palaces, Progresses
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	7. Finding Anne of Cleves
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Presentation of the course:

The course will be taught with rich projected images of art and architecture, leaving time for 10 minutes to encourage clarifications and discussion at 40 minutes and 1 hr 20.

Learning outcomes:

As a result of the course, you will gain a greater understanding of the subject and you should be able to:

- read late medieval artistic symbols
- understand the layout of Tudor palaces
- gauge what happened to royal property at the Civil War
- plan approaches to your research by understanding evidence and sources

Reading and resources list

There are no compulsory readings for this course.

However, you may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.

Cleland, E and Eaker, A. *The Tudors: Art and Majesty in Renaissance England* (2022)

Thurley, S *Houses of Power: The Places that Shaped the Tudor World* (2017)

Williamson, J *The Oak King, the Holly King and the Unicorn: The Myths and Symbolism of the Unicorn Tapestries* (1986)

Note: Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) students 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 ICE course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

(Information correct as of April 2024)