

## Weekend Courses 2024-25

### The Tudors and the wider world

**Start date:** 13 June 2025                      **End date:** 15 June 2025

**Venue:** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge  
CB23 8AQ

**Tutor:** Dr Jessica Sharkey                      **Course Code:** 2425NRX051

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#### Tutor biography

Jessica Sharkey is an Associate Professor of Early Modern History, Director of Teaching and Deputy Head of the School of History at the University of East Anglia. She specialises in Tudor History and has recently been appointed as a University Teaching Fellow. Jessica is currently interested in teaching how Tudor England encountered the world beyond Europe and how it used notions of 'the other' to construct its own identity and purpose.

#### Summary of content

We all think we know the story of the Tudors, England's most famous dynastic soap opera. We rarely stop to consider how much of what we know was constructed much later to provide an origin point for England's empire. This course will provide you with an opportunity to look with fresh eyes at 16th-century England. You will discover a society more diverse than you'd imagined and a place constantly looking beyond its shores to construct its own identity. You will learn that Tudor England was an anxious place where hierarchy mattered above all: what role did trade play in the defining of status? We will consider how the Tudor kings and queens interacted with the world beyond Europe and how the changed wrought by the Reformations shaped this contact. You will see through primary evidence how the widening of horizons was reflected in an emerging popular culture. Using the recent academic developments in the field, we will consider how accepting the Tudors were of difference and how monolithic a culture Tudor England really was. Along the way we will have a chance to reconsider England's place within the wider world and tell a different story about who the Tudors really were.

#### Aims

This course aims to:

- consider who the Tudors were
- introduce you to relevant primary material
- position Tudor England within a global framework

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## Course sessions

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### 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
<b>20:30 – 22:00</b>	<b>Welcome to Tudor England</b>
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Tudor Society: Perceptions and Challenges</b>
10:30	Coffee
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>How to get ahead in Tudor England or Status and why it mattered</b>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
<b>16:30 – 18:00</b>	<b>Widening the Lens: Tudor England and the World</b>
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
<b>20:00 – 21:30</b>	<b>Navigating the Globe, Expanding Horizons</b>
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>So who were the Tudors really?</b>
10:30	Coffee
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Becoming English: constructing Tudor identities</b>
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

**Presentation of the course**

This weekend course will be taught over seven sessions. In each session you will be presented with a thorough analysis of the topic. You will be encouraged to consider primary material and to discuss ideas within the group.

**Learning outcomes**

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

- understand the Tudors within a radically different context
- understand what life was really like in Tudor England
- challenge assumptions about Tudor society
- consider Tudor England's connections with the wider world
- examine a variety of primary sources to frame this new narrative

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## Reading and resources list

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**There are no compulsory readings for this course. However, you may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.**

Wooding, Lucy, *Tudor England* (Yale, 2022)

Kaufmann, Miranda, *Black Tudors* (OneWorld, 2018)

Pennock, Caroline Dodds, *On Savage Shores* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2024)

MacGregor, Neil, *Shakespeare's Restless World* (Allen Lane, 2012) – originally a wonderful podcast still available for free wherever you get your podcasts.

**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)*