

Researching Elizabeth I

Instructor: Valerie Billing

Course Description

Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, reigned in England over 400 years ago, yet she holds an important place in the modern American imagination. She makes regular appearances in Hollywood, as the major figure in films like *Elizabeth* (1998) and *Anonymous* (2011), and as a peripheral figure in *Shakespeare in Love* (1998). She appears as a character in video games like *Assassin's Creed* and Sid Meier's *Civilization*, and she is a popular figure in historical fiction novels. But who was Elizabeth, and what kinds of debates did she inspire, in her time and in ours?

This research-based course will not claim to discover a "true" Elizabeth, but it will give you the tools to investigate a series of major questions and concepts related to her reign. It will train you in a variety of research skills that will remain valuable throughout the rest of your undergraduate studies and beyond. You will learn to identify useful sources in basic internet searches, learn the difference between scholarly and non-scholarly sources, and learn to use some of the UC Davis library's many research tools. Since the topic of this course is Elizabeth I, part of the course will focus on how to approach sixteenth- and seventeenth-century texts. By the end of the quarter, you will have developed your own research archive and written a research paper that puts you in conversation with experts in the fields of Elizabethan literature and history.

Required Materials

Graff and Birkenstein, *They Say/I Say*

Greggory, Philippa, *The Queen's Fool*

Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Folger, ed. Mowat and Werstine)

Thomas, Jane Resh, *Behind the Mask: The Life of Queen Elizabeth I*

Course Reader

40 3x5 notecards

Grade Breakdown

Reading Response Papers (5 total): 20%

Group Presentation: 10%

Determining Source Usefulness: 10%

Allusions and Internet Research: 10%

Proposal and Annotated Bibliography: 15%

Research Paper: 20%

Final Exam: 10%

Attendance and Participation: 5%

Schedule of Readings

Week 1: Introduction

A: Introduction: Tudor timeline and portraits of Elizabeth

B: Thomas, *Behind the Mask* (1988); *They Say/I Say*, "Introduction"

Week 2: Biographical Debates

A: Thomas (continued) [in class: work on group presentations]

B: *TS/IS* Ch. 1-2

due: Group Presentation

Week 3: Elizabeth at Court

A: Raleigh, "Fortune hath taken away my love" and Elizabeth I, "Ah silly puggie" (c. 1587); *TS/IS* Ch. 3

due: Primary source response paper 1

B: Elizabeth I, excerpts from *Speeches and Prayers*; *TS/IS* Ch. 4

Week 4: Oral Presence and Presentation

A: Rose, "Gender and the Construction of Royal Authority in the Speeches of Queen Elizabeth I" (2002)

due: Secondary source response paper 1

B: Montrose, "The Elizabethan Subject and the Spenserian Text" (1986)

Week 5: Oral Presence and Presentation

A: Elizabeth I, "Speech to a Joint Delegation of Lords and Commons" (1566) (two versions); *TS/IS* Ch. 5

due: Determining Source Usefulness

B: Marcus, "From Oral Delivery to Print in the Speeches of Elizabeth I" (2000)

due: Secondary source response paper 2

Week 6: Contemporary Praise(?)

A: Spenser, excerpts from *The Faerie Queene* (1596)

due: Primary source response paper 2

B: Kinahan, "Embodying Origins: An Anatomy of a Yeoman's Daughter, Spenser's Argante, and Elizabeth I" (1998)

Week 7: Contemporary Praise(?)

A: Lyly, *Endymion* (1588)

due: Research Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography

B: *Endymion* (continued); *TS/IS* Ch. 7

due: Allusions and Internet Research

Week 8: Contemporary Praise(?) and Popular Culture

A: McCarthy, "The Queen's 'Unfledged Minions': An Alternate Account of the Origins of Blackfriars and of the Boy Company" (2006); *TS/IS* Ch. 9

due: Secondary source response paper 3

B: Anonymous, *The Secret History of the Most Renowned Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Essex* (1689)

due: first draft of research paper

Week 9: Elizabeth in Popular Culture

A: Gregory, *The Queen's Fool* (2004)

B: Gregory (continued)

due: second draft of research paper

Week 10: Elizabeth in Film

A: Elizabeth I, "Tilbury Speech" (1588); Frye, "The Myth of Elizabeth at Tilbury" (1992);
[in class: film clips from *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* (2007) and *The Virgin Queen* (2005)]

B: No reading due [in class: film clips chosen based on student interest]

due: Research Paper

Final Exam: [date] [time]