

HR251-5-FY: SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN THE EARLY MODERN BRITISH ISLES 1500-1750


Year: 2010/11


Department: History

Essex credit: 30

ECTS credit: 15

Module is taught during the following terms

Autumn 

Spring 

Summer 

Module Description

Against the backdrop of the massive political changes and conflict of this period, this course will deal with the different groups that inhabited these islands, and their political, religious, cultural and social interactions. Why might people move within and from the four countries, and how did the different national groups view and interact with one another and construct ideas of 'national identity'? This was a period of transformation in people's relationships with an increasingly centralising government, and saw the decline of effective alternative lordships and administrations. This course will therefore trace these processes of change, and look at how people adapted to and rebelled against them. It will look at people's relationships with the other great institution in society: the church, following the effects of the Reformations and demonstrating the reasons whereby some areas become Protestant (often embracing different forms of Protestantism) and others Catholic. It will also sketch the ways in which religious belief impinged on people's daily lives and affected the ways in which they viewed the world and the place they and others held in it.

Further to this, this course will also look at localities and families, investigating how people got on with one another and why they might not. How was local society structured and run? What was the relationship between higher and lower sections of society and how were the indigent treated? How were the upwardly socially mobile viewed, what were the ingredients of male and female honour? Why might discord and violence occur, and how was it expressed and mediated? Gender relations will also be considered, as will interactions between spouses, parents and children, and wider family connections.

Learning & Teaching Methods

One-hour lecture and one-hour seminar per week

Assessment

50 per cent Coursework Mark, 50 per cent Exam Mark

Exam Duration and Period

3:00 hour exam during Summer Examination period.