2014

232-01 Bloody Mary and the Virgin Queen

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History 232 – Bloody Mary and the Virgin Queen  
Spring Semester – 2014  
Xavier University  
Tuesday - Thursday 2:30 – 3:45  
John J. LaRocca, SJ  
Schott 504  
Hours: T – Th 9:15 – 10:15 or by appointment

Course Description:

In my 37 years of teaching Tudor-Stuart History at Xavier I have never taught a course on either Mary or Elizabeth. One of the reasons for that was the negative image of Mary which emerged from the tradition of English Protestant historiography and the image of Elizabeth which is epitomized in Sir John Neale’s biography of Elizabeth. Now that religion is no longer a concern to British academicians, other view points are emerging.

I will literally be a day or two ahead of you in preparing for each class. I will, therefore, not require you to write a research paper, but I will require you to read four books – two on Mary and two on Elizabeth - and to be able to summarize the author’s argument and point of view.

It might be good to do some background reading about the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth. General surveys of Tudor History had been written by John Guy, David Loades, Peter Ackroyd, GR Elton, A. Pollard and many others. Take a look at one of them. Yes, I will ask you which one you are reading.

This is a tentative reading schedule for Mary Tudor.


January 21 – Redman, pp. 1 – 63.

January 23 – Redman, pp. 64 – 123.


February 4 - Redman, pp. 200 – 226.

February 6 – Redman 226 – 265.

February 11 – 18 e-reserves on Marian Theology

February 27 – pp. 309 – 351.

There will be a mid-semester essay due on 25 February and a final essay due on 6 May. The mid semester essay is worth 40% of your grade, the final is 50%, and class participation is worth 10%.