



LIVERPOOL HOPE  
UNIVERSITY

Est. 1844

Liverpool Hope University  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities

**The Object of History:  
Interpreting and Evaluating Primary Evidence**

MA HISTORY:  
HISM034

**Sample**

**Course Leader: tbc**

**15 Credits**

**Course Synopsis**

Through a series of case studies this course examines the value of primary evidence in the form of text and the written word and material culture. Reflecting the research specialisms of the History team this course analyses, evaluates and reinterprets the importance and value of primary sources, focusing on archival documentation, objects of history and visual arts. Through an examination of written sources and records, together with objects, students are encouraged to develop new interpretations and knowledge about the past. The course is based on a variety of primary materials from Europe and beyond and across centuries to evaluate how such sources can be utilised in our understanding of history.

**Course Aims**

This course aims to provide students with:

- an effective understanding of how to evaluate and critically assess primary sources;
- an effective understanding of the bibliographic and other research skills and methods for postgraduate work in the subject;
- a critical and informed appreciation of the role and relevance of primary sources as historical evidence;
- a critical appreciation of the social, political and cultural significance of historical issues in contemporary society;
- An opportunity for students to present their research findings to their peers.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate an informed and critical appreciation of the use of primary evidence;
- demonstrate effective communication skills, in written and oral form, for postgraduate study;
- demonstrate in-depth understanding of the function and purpose of a variety of primary sources;
- critically evaluate the significance of various primary sources through engagement with the theoretical literature on primary sources and material culture;
- demonstrate the ability to produce a high-quality digital poster.

## Module Outline

(Room: **tbc**)

Semester Two: **year**

Session One – **date**, 4-7pm: (Dr Pogson)

**Title:** *Van Dyck's paintings of Thomas Wentworth*

- This work regarded as some of the finest and most powerful of the Van Dyck portraits, provides evidence of one of the ways in which Strafford sought to promote, and defend, his service in Ireland.
- More broadly, the work can be used to open up discussion on the importance of portraiture, both in terms of early seventeenth-century uses of it, and as an historical source.

**Reading:**

- Hearn, Karen (ed.), *Van Dyck & Britain* (London, 2009)
- Millar, Oliver, *Van Dyck in England* (London, 1982)

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Session Two – **date**, 4-7pm: (Dr Ruth Canning)

**Title:** *Personal Petitions: From Ireland With Love*

- In case you find the document readings daunting, they are direct transcriptions of contemporary documents. There were no spelling rules at that time, so writing was phonetic and it can sometimes be helpful to try reading them aloud. I hope you will uncover themes relating to personal and communal identity, loyalty, political power and demands for justice in sixteenth-century Ireland.

**Readings**

- McGowan-Doyle, "Elizabeth I, the Old English, and the Rhetoric of Counsel".
- Baron of Delvin's 1584 Treatise
- Baron of Dunsany's Petitions
- The Palesmen's Petition 1600

**Session Three** – date, 4-7pm: (Dr Sam Hyde)

**Title:** *Political Cartoons as Historical Sources*

- This session examines the ...

**Reading:**

- Coupe, W.A., 'Observations on a Theory of Political Caricature', *CSSH*, 11, 1 (1969)
  - Gombrich, E.H., 'The Cartoonist's Armoury', in *Mediations on a Hobby Horse and Other Essays on the Theory of Art* (London & New York, 1963).
  - Hyde, S.S., 'Political cartooning before the Law - 'Black Friday', J.H. Thomas, & the 'Communist' libel trial of 1921', *CBH*, 25, 4 (2011)
  - Kemnitz, T.M., 'The Cartoon as a Historical Source', *JIH*, 4, 1 (1973)
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**Session Four** – date, 4-7pm: (Associate Professor Evans)

**Title:** *Food as Material Culture*

- Students re-evaluate the importance of food as material culture.
- Students examine what impact food has played in the development of modern society.

**Readings**

- Jean-Louis Flandrin and Massimo Montanari (eds), *Food: a culinary history from Antiquity to the present* (New York, 1999)
  - Bill Price, *Fifty foods that changed the course of history* (London, 2014)
  - Kenneth Kiple, *A movable feast: ten millennia of food globalization* (London, 2013)
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**Session Five** – date, 4-7pm: (Dr Appleby)

**Title:** *Student led session: poster presentation*

- Each student delivers a class presentation to their peers based on a poster that he/she has designed, under the supervision of a module tutor;
  - Each student's poster must be based on theme/topic relates directly to the module.
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**Assessments**

Poster = 100%

Please produce a high quality poster (A3/A4 size) related to a theme/topic of your choice that relates directly to the module. The poster will interpret a source chosen by the student, after discussion with tutors and the course leader.

As part of the assignment each student will deliver a presentation, which will not be assessed formally; students will be provided with written feedback.

### **Indicative Poster topic:**

**Example 1:** An interpretation of the *Baptism of Pocahontas* (John Gadsby Chapman, 1840) in the US Capitol.

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**Submission deadline:** tbc

### **General Bibliography:**

Karen Harvey, *History and material culture: a student's guide to approaching alternative sources* (London, 2013).

### **Object of History:**

K.R. Andrews, *Trade, Plunder and Settlement: Maritime Enterprise and the Genesis of the British Empire* (Cambridge, 1984)

P.L. Barbour (ed.), *The Complete Works of Captain John Smith*, 3 vols. (Chapel Hill, 1986)

F. Gleach, *Powhatan's World and Colonial Virginia* (Norman, 1997)

F. Mossiker, *Pocahontas: The Life and the Legend* (New York, 1976)

D. A. Price, *Love and Hate in Jamestown* (London, 2003)

D. Richter, *Before the Revolution: America's Ancient Pasts* (Cambridge, 2011)

### **Food and Material Culture**

Jean-Louis Flandrin and Massimo Montanari (eds), *Food: a culinary history from Antiquity to the present* (New York, 1999)

Bill Price, *Fifty foods that changed the course of history* (London, 2014)

Kenneth Kiple, *A movable feast: ten millennia of food globalization* (London, 2013)

### **Madame Tussaud's Chamber of Horrors**

Cavendish, R. 'Death of Madame Tussaud,' *History Today*, Volume 50 Issue 4 (April 2000) Available online.

Clark, R., *Capital Punishment in Britain* (Shepperton, 2009).

Emsley, C., *Crime and Society in England 1750-1900* (London, 1996).

Flanders, Judith. *The invention of murder: how the Victorians revelled in death and detection and created modern crime* (London, 2011).

Gatrell, V. A. C., *The hanging tree: execution and the English people, 1770-1868* (Oxford, 1996).

Gibson, M.E., 'The Criminal Body in Victorian Britain: The Case of "The Ring and the Book,"' *Browning Institute Studies*, Vol. 18, Victorian Theatricality (1990), pp. 73-93. Available through JStor.

Godfrey, B., *Crime and justice 1750-1950* (Cullompton, 2005).

Pilbeam, P., Madame Tussaud and her Waxworks, *History Today*, Vol. 52 Issue 12 (Dec 2002), p. 6-7.

### **Van Dyck of Thomas Wentworth, earl of Strafford with Sir Philip Mainwaring**

Hearn, Karen (ed.), *Van Dyck & Britain* (London, 2009)

Millar, Oliver, *Van Dyck in England* (London, 1982)

Millar, Oliver, 'Strafford and Van Dyck', in Ollard, Richard and Tudor-Craig, Pamela (eds), *For Veronica Wedgwood* (London, 1986)

Howarth, David, *Images of Rule: Art and Politics in the English Renaissance* (Basingstoke, 1997).

Shaw, Dougal, 'Thomas Wentworth and Monarchical Ritual in Early Modern Ireland', *Historical Journal*, 49 (2006), pp. 331-355.

Pogson, Fiona, 'County History and Civil War: Sir Philip Mainwaring, William Dugdale, and the Attempt to Publish a History of Cheshire in the 1650s', *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, 163 (2014), pp. 1-18.

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004):

- Asch, Ronald G., 'Wentworth, Thomas, first earl of Strafford';
- Pogson, Fiona, 'Mainwaring, Sir Philip';
- Smuts, R. Malcolm, 'Howard, Thomas, fourteenth earl of Arundel';
- Wood, Jeremy, 'Van Dyck, Sir Anthony'

### **Margaret Thatcher**

Aitken Jonathan, *Margaret Thatcher: power and personality* (London, 2013).

Campbell, John, *Margaret Thatcher, volume two: the Iron Lady* (London, 2003).

Fry, K. Geoffrey, *The politics of the Thatcher revolution: an interpretation of British politics, 1979-1990* (London, 2008).

Moore, Charles, *Margaret Thatcher: the authorized biography, Vol. 1: not for turning* (London, 2013).

Thatcher, Margaret, *The Downing Street years* (London, 1995).