

Religious Tolerance and Intolerance in Early Modern Europe

Course Code:

Module Title: **Religious Tolerance and Intolerance in Early Modern Europe**

ECTS allocation 10 ECTS

Co-Ordinator: Dr. Graeme Murdock

Teaching Staff: Dr. Graeme Murdock

Course Overview and Aims: Does religious tolerance have a history? Was intolerance the normative state of pre-modern religious attitudes? What else explains the state and Church persecution of religious minorities, and outbreaks of popular Christian venom against heretics, Jews, Muslims and witches. When, and why, did Europeans begin to tolerate the presence of those of different religions in their communities? Did toleration emerge first among intellectuals who were committed to the ideal of tolerating religious differences as an expression of their reasonable form of religion? Or does religious toleration have its origins in the pragmatic responses of ordinary people to the breakdown of religious uniformity in much of Europe after the Reformation? This course introduces students to the changing meanings and interpretations of religious tolerance and intolerance in communities in early modern Europe through a range of printed and other sources. It covers writers and examples drawn from across the Continent and focuses on the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries in particular.

Working Methods: The course consists of a series of weekly two-hour graduate seminars. Students are required to attend all seminars, make presentations based on their own research, and submit research-based essays.

Syllabus: The syllabus reflects key questions and recent research on the social impact of religious division in early modern Europe. The weekly programme will be as follows:

Week 1: Reformation Europe

- Week 2: Religion and the State
- Week 3: The Persecuting Society
- Week 4: Religious ritual and violence
- Week 5: Attitudes to non-Christian communities
- Week 6: The practice of tolerance: law
- Week 7: Case-studies of tolerance: the West
- Week 8: Case-studies of tolerance: the East
- Week 9: Religious toleration- triumph of an idea?

Assessment: Students will be assessed on the basis of their participation in seminars and on the completion of two major research-based essays of between 2,500 and 3,000 words in length.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will

- Understand the practice of religious tolerance and intolerance in early modern Europe
- Become acquainted with the relevant historical sources
- Become acquainted with relevant historical debate and interpretations, and learn to communicate their findings to an interested audience

Introductory Reading:

Henry Kamen, *The Rise Of Toleration* (London, 1967)

Perez Zagorin, *How the Idea of Religious Toleration Came to the West*_(Princeton UP, 2003)

Alex Walsham, *Charitable Hatred. Tolerance and Intolerance in England, 1500-1700* (Manchester UP, 2006)

Ben Kaplan, *Divided by Faith. Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe* (Harvard UP, 2007)
