

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023

**HILARY MANTEL – REWRITING HISTORY:
WOLF HALL and *BRING UP THE BODIES***

Coordinators: Arlynn Brody, Stephen Kalinsky and Sara Otey

As the Booker Prize website put it following the recent passing of Hilary Mantel, “Divorced, beheaded, died; divorced, beheaded, survived. Those six words, resonant with almost anyone who went to school in Britain, have become shorthand for the extraordinary story of Henry VIII and his six wives.” Shorthand indeed! In this study group we read Mantel’s first two chronicles of Tudor England: *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies*, toss in some “actual” history for good measure and attempt to put together the real lowdown on Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Thomas More, Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell and company. Come join us. Heads will roll.

Arlynn Brody, a school principal, **Sara Otey**, a journalist, and **Steve Kalinsky**, an attorney, have coordinated or co-coordinated many (really: quite a few) study groups on literature, history, politics, theater, philosophy, films and folk music. Onward and upward!

Type of Study Group: Mostly discussion

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

Required:

Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel;

Bring Up the Bodies by Hilary Mantel.

Note: Both books are widely available in print (soft cover and hard cover) and as a Kindle ebook at a cost of \$12 to \$14 each, or less.

Suggested (but not required):

Wolf Hall Companion by Lauren Mackay (Batsford, 2020, available from Amazon, Hard Cover or Kindle ebook at a cost of \$15 to \$20, or less)

***** **SYLLABUS - A WORK IN PROGRESS** *****

WEEK 1

TOPIC: Hilary Mantel, Tudor England: cast of characters, family trees

READING:

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Relevant material to be provided by the coordinators.

QUESTIONS:

Who was Hilary Mantel? What do we know (or think we know) about Henry VIII and his court? 500+ years later, why do we still care? Prior to Hilary Mantel, what were our source materials for Henry VIII and his Court (books, films- nonfiction and/or fiction)?

WEEK 2

TOPIC: *Wolf Hall*

READING:

Wolf Hall, Part One

QUESTIONS:

Who is Thomas Cromwell? What is his relationship with his father, Walter? Who is Thomas Wolsey? What is his objective (and his likelihood for success)?

WEEK 3

TOPIC: *Wolf Hall*

READING:

Wolf Hall, Part Two

QUESTIONS:

How has Wolsey's relationship with the King evolved? Who is Henry Percy? What do we know about the Boleyn family and their relationship to King Henry? Is Henry's marriage to Katherine valid (why or why not)?

WEEK 4: *Wolf Hall*, Part Three

WEEK 5: *Wolf Hall*, Part Four

WEEK 6: *Wolf Hall*, Part Five

WEEK 7: *Wolf Hall*, Part Six

WEEK 8: *Bring Up the Bodies*, Part One (chapters 1 and 2)

WEEK 9: *Bring Up the Bodies*, Part One (chapter 3)

WEEK 10: *Bring Up the Bodies*, Part Two (chapter 1)

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WEEK 11: *Bring Up the Bodies*, Part Two (chapters 2 and 3)

WEEK 12: Conclusion

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