Participants should commit to reading and preparing the documents selected for each session and to engage actively in discussions. Seminar sessions will meet three mornings a week, from 9 am to 12:30 pm, with a mid-morning break for refreshments. Over the course of the four weeks, each of the participants in turn will be asked to serve as moderator for a seminar session, leading the analysis of the assigned readings, drawing out the main themes, highlighting questions raised by the material, and overseeing the course of the discussion. Afternoons and two whole days a week will be reserved for the NEH summer scholars’ own research. The seminar co-directors will meet at least twice with each NEH summer scholar during the four weeks to discuss each person’s research/writing project. Communication among participants and between participants and the co-directors will be facilitated before and during the seminar through an online learning community powered by the Moodle software. Participants will be asked to post a brief overview of their project by the end of the third week of the seminar. In the final week, we will reserve one afternoon for parallel small-group presentations on the research work each participant conducted over the month, offering space for constructive feedback and suggestions from other group members to strengthen the projects. The groups will be divided according to their research interests and topics.

Seminar Schedule

Week 1: Heresy and Persecution

Monday, July 15 am: Seminar: heresy, co-existence, and the early Reformation
pm: Orientation to the Meeter Center and opening reception

Tuesday, July 16 Research day: individual meetings with co-directors

Wednesday, July 17 am: Seminar: advocates of persecution (With Benjamin Kaplan as visiting scholar)
pm: Research

Thursday, July 18 Research day (Prof. Kaplan on-site)

Friday, July 19 am: Seminar: Trials for Heresy
pm: Research

Week 2: Tolerance in theory and in limited practice

Monday, July 22 am: Seminar: proponents of toleration
pm: Research

Tuesday, July 23 Research day

Wednesday, July 24 am: Seminar: Catholics in Elizabethan England
pm: Research
Thursday, July 25
Research day: individual meetings with co-directors (Prof. Diefendorf on-site)

Friday, July 26
am: Seminar: Protestants in Catholic France (with Barbara Diefendorf as visiting scholar)
pm: Research

Week 3: Co-existence and bi-confessional communities

Monday, July 29
am: Seminar: the Swiss lands and the Holy Roman Empire
pm: Research

Tuesday, July 30
Research day

Wednesday, July 31
am: Seminar: Eastern European models of co-existence
pm: Research

Thursday, August 1
Research day: individual meetings with co-directors

Friday, August 2
am: Seminar: Permeable boundaries & social interactions
pm: Research

Week 4: Christians, Jews, and Muslims

Monday, August 5
am: Seminar: Legal Status and Theological Justifications
pm: Research

Tuesday, August 6
Research day: individual meetings with co-directors (Prof. Bell on-site)

Wednesday, August 7
am: Seminar: Inter-faith Relations in Practice (with Dean Bell as visiting scholar)
pm: Small-group presentations

Thursday, August 8
Research day

Friday, August 9
am: Seminar: Successes and challenges of co-existence
pm: Concluding seminar session, assessment, and outcomes