# HNR325-A: Dr. Toland's Research Tutorial

Do you love a good story or juicy scandal?
Are you interested in the material culture of the wealthy?
Are you an imaginative soul with the ability to think creatively?
Do you fancy yourself a detective, *or even a history detective*?
Do you have an interest in inheritance law and probate?
Are you drawn to statistical models as a way to represent reality?
Or, are you simply *obsessed with dead people like Dr. Toland?*

## Dr. Lisa Toland and the intriguing study of...

# PALEOGRAPHY

## (Eeek! Paleo... what?!)

If you answer positively to any of the questions above or if you're just intrigued with the idea of reading old manuscripts, then Dr. Toland's research tutorial is for you! Dr. Toland invites you to join her in reading, transcribing, dissecting, analyzing, categorizing and interpreting English wills written between 1550 and 1750. (Paleography is the study of old handwriting.) On research trips to the UK she has collected copies of wills from London and the northern county of Yorkshire. She needs your assistance in thinking about and comparing what these old documents tell us about the men and women that wrote them.

In the Paleography Tutorial students will be introduced to the political, legal and social setting of England after the Reformation. They will be taught how to read court clerks' script and how to approach the interpretation of the wills. They will be given their own collections of original manuscript sources from specific English families to read and transcribe. Finally, as a class they and Dr. Toland will compare findings and offer some preliminary interpretations.

## Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:15-2:10pm
## Direct Questions to Dr. Lisa Toland