In 1597 James VI of Scotland published a short but influential treatise, *Daemonologie*, in which he argued unequivocally for the existence of witches. By the time he became King James I of England, he had been responsible for the execution of hundreds of innocent women suspected of witchcraft. Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* is the playwright’s response to this febrile atmosphere of persecution and fear. Its potency is such that even today some actors refuse to say its name, instead referring superstitiously to ‘The Scottish Play’. On this course we’ll consider *Macbeth* in its early modern context, but also in terms of its startlingly modern resonances in the #MeToo era, in which the language of the ‘witch hunt’ has been crudely misappropriated.
Fri 15th
MAY
6pm         Welcome to Gladstone’s Library and introductions
8pm         \textit{Macbeth: ‘Thunder and lightning’}

Sat 16th
MAY
9.30am     ‘Pale Hecate’s offerings’: which witch is which, and why?
11am       Coffee
11.30am    ‘Come fate into the list’: destiny and design
2pm        ‘Unsex me here’: gender’s strictures and structures
4pm        Tea
4.20pm     Film: Macbeth (dir. Justin Kurzel, 2015, 113 mins)
8pm        \textit{The butcher and the fiendlike queen: Fassbender and Cotillard}

Sun 17th
MAY
9.30am     \textit{Macbeth for the 21st Century}
11am       Coffee
11.30am    \textit{Is the hurly-burly done?}
12.30pm    Lunch and depart

DINING:
From 8AM BREAKFAST    |    From 6.30PM DINNER    |    12.30PM LUNCH
CHAPEL:
8am each weekday morning. All welcome