

## HONS 195N: CRYPTOGRAPHY HOMEWORK # 2

Write a 1–2 page response essay on the Babington plot. Some questions you might like to address include:

What was the Babington plot? Why did the plot fail?

What methods did Walsingham employ? What does this say about what is required for successful governmental cryptanalytic efforts generally?

Absent royal cryptographic efforts, do you think Mary would have been foiled?

What does this episode say about the politics of the monarchy and dynastic traditions?

To what extent does the Babington plot speak to the existence of conspiracies in sixteenth century England?

What role did religion play in the Babington plot?

What were the unique features of the cipher employed? How does this change the way one employs frequency analysis?

Did Mary believe that her cipher was unbreakable? What evidence is there for or against?

Was Queen Elizabeth justified in executing Mary Queen of Scots?