



THRONE/games:

Statecraft as Blood Sport from the Tower of London to Paris' Guillotine

History 4955

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Overview:

Massacres, beheadings, the murders of future saints: Except for the dragons, the Game of Thrones has few plot twists that can rival the real life drama in the histories of the kings of England and France. This course will explore some of the most dramatic moments in the history of both realms—including the execution of the future saint Thomas More, the drama surrounding Henry VIII's many wives, the Saint Bartholomew's Day massacre during royal wedding celebrations in Paris, the courtly intrigue of Louis XIV's Versailles, and the beheading of Charles I of England and Louis XVI of France. Through these events, you will examine the brutal realities of power politics at the highest level in pre-modern Europe.

The course will focus on two major themes as described below. Please note that the themes are not sequential but will be interwoven throughout the course

The Catalyst Experience Sessions:

Students are required to participate in each academic session of The Catalyst Experience, which is our program's active orientation to the four cities that we use as our classrooms. These sessions will include walking tours and museum visits, in addition to formal elements of Catalyst orientation that will focus on safety, wellness, and local transportation. You may not miss any of these required sessions under any circumstances.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze the study of history and how the analysis of history differs from other forms of critical enquiry
2. Determine and evaluate key persons, movements, events, and concepts important to European history during the period covered by this course
3. Develop and hone critical skills in reading, interpretation, discussion and writing that are at the heart of active citizenship and effective communication.
4. Examine the relationship between historical actors and movements and assess the layers of interplay between the past, the present and myriad debates about the future where historical knowledge is concerned

5. React critically through various discursive means (short essays, blog posts, discussions and through research) to the major themes, personages and historical implications of the course's material

Themes

The course will focus on two major themes. (Please note that the themes are not sequential but will be interwoven throughout the course, and please also note that our schedule will change as we get closer to this learning adventure in London and Paris.)

Theme One: The Power of Kings

Goals: This theme explores theories of kingship in early modern Europe, with special emphasis on the relationship between power, that is the ability to coerce subjects, and authority, that is the ability to persuade subjects to do ones bidding because it is the proper, right or natural to do so. This portion of our course will explore theories of power through case studies of its implementation.

Objectives: By the conclusion of this course you will be able to:

- Distinguish between the uses of power and authority in theory and practice
- Define and distinguish between different concepts of royal power and authority current in pre-modern England and France
- Identify the messages conveyed by the tombs of the royal necropolis in Westminster Abbey and artistic depictions of English and French kings
- Assess the nature of dynastic strategy through a close examination of Henry VIII's marital strategies
- Explore the role of first ministers in the rule of England and France through the case study of Cardinal Wolsey
- Explain how Louis XIV sought to project his authority at his palace of Versailles
- Evaluate the reasoning used by revolutionaries to justify the execution of Charles I and Louis XVI

Theme Two: The Politics of Religion

Objectives: By the conclusion of this course you will be able to:

- Identify the theological and historical claims associated with French and English sacral monarchy
- Explain why religious tolerance was so politically difficult for English and French monarchs to condone
- Assess the use and meaning of royally sanctioned violence during the religious wars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries
- Identify the reasoning behind both Sir Thomas More's refusal to obey Henry VIII's religious decrees and Henry VIII's decision to execute More
- Identify the reasons behind the rise and fall of Cardinal Wolsey
- Explain the provisions of the Edict of Nantes and the debates surrounding its promulgation by Henry IV and revocation by Louis XIV

Class Format:

Class time will be devoted to orientation, academic walks, discussion of readings and visits to historic sites (e.g. museums, institutions, landmarks, etc.). Each day you will stand in the places where some of the most dramatic and revealing moments in English and French royal history took place. London and Paris will be our classroom as we shift from site to site—including the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, Westminster Abbey, the Louvre, Versailles and the Sainte Chapelle. In addition, I will suggest a list of further sites that you might like to explore as you come to terms with the various ways that monarchs used a combination of power and the mystique of kingship to rule their realms. Visit the royal tombs at Saint Denis, the royal residences at Windsor and Fontainebleau, or the collections of royal coinage and regalia on display in both capitals. Bad weather will **not** postpone or cancel classes! Class attendance and participation in class activities and discussions is required. Please see the participation policies below for more detail.

Required Reading:

I have chosen videos and readings for our course that will provide you with the background needed to get the most out of our site visits. Most of this material is available on-line, but I will also distribute a PDF packet of primary source readings that engage specifically with the events and ideas that will feature prominently in our course. This reading is primarily intended to provide you with the historical context that you need for our class. It is important that you try to review as much of this required material as you can before you arrive in London. You could certainly save some for when we are in Europe, but you should not count on having lots of free time to read over there. Trust me, there will be many other things you would rather be doing with your spare time in Europe!

Schedule of Topics and Required Reading/Viewing:

Before departure:

In preparation for our time in London:

1. I would like you to watch episodes of Simon Schama's *A History of Britain* (BBC, in three series 2000---2002, see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008qpzn/episodes/guide>). While I would encourage you to watch the whole series because they really are excellent, the episodes that provide background for our course are: 6 "Burning Convictions", 7 "Body of the Queen", 8 "The British Wars" and 9 "Revolution". Many libraries, including Missouri State's, have the DVD series. If your library does not own *A History of Britain* it may be able to secure it from a consortium library. Alternatively it is available for sale and, if you are good at finding these sorts of things, may also be available free on---line.
2. I would also like you to watch the classic 1966 film *A Man for All Seasons* which will introduce you to the fraught relationship between Henry VIII and his chancellor (and future saint) Sir Thomas More. We will take up More's predicament while exploring relationships between kings and their chief ministers.
3. Finally, if you like historical films, I would highly recommend watching *Elizabeth* (directed by Shekhar Kapur, 1998). It provides a fantastic and historically accurate introduction to the challenges of being a female ruler in the early modern era. We will discuss Elizabeth at some length in our course.

And to get ready for Paris: In preparation for Paris:

There are few accessible films and documentaries on the French monarchy, but I would highly

recommend the French film (with English subtitles) *La Reine Margot* (1994). This is a film adaptation of an Alexandre Dumas novel of the same title. It does a fantastic job bringing alive the tensions and court intrigue surrounding the Saint Bartholomew's Day massacre in Paris in 1572, a topic that we will explore in our course. I should probably note that this film is definitely R rated, with nudity and quite a bit of violence, which I guess should be expected in a course called Throne/Games

On the Ground in London

Tuesday 17 May: Catalyst Orientation

Wednesday 18 May: The Catalyst Experience: Meeting the London Classroom

Thursday 19 May: The Nature of Power and Authority

Venue: The British Museum

Required Reading/Viewing: None

Friday 20 May: The Coercive Power of Kings

Venue: The Tower of London

Required Reading/Viewing: The Tower of London. Traitors

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InmGG51m4Zs>

I've known Suzannah who is one of the co-authors of this documentary from time that I spent as a fellow in Oxford. She'll provide you with the perfect background for our trip to the Tower by exploring how it was used by British monarchs as a venue for some of the bloodier aspects of royal rule.

Optional Further Reading/Viewing: *The Last Days of Anne Boleyn*

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEpsBvWdDOE>

- We will be visiting the site of Anne Boleyn's execution during our tour of the Tower. This BBC Documentary created by a leading historian of the Tudor period will give you all the background that you need to explore a critical episode in Tudor history. It's well worth watching if you find the time.

Sunday 22 May: The Power Behind the Throne

Venue: Hampton Court Palace

Required Reading/Viewing: An Introduction to Cardinal Wolsey

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=---BG8eLkh8kU>

- This short video by an expert on Cardinal Wolsey gives you the basic biographical background that you require to visit his palace.

Optional Further Viewing: Hampton Court Secrets of Henry VIII's Palace

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgQ_JGFbufM

- I would very much recommend watching this fantastic documentary about the evolution of Hampton Court Palace. You will get much more out of our visit if you watch this first.

Optional Further Viewing: Episode Six "Burning Convictions" of Simon Schama's *History of Britain* in the Optional Further Reading/Viewing section (below)

- Can't get enough of Cardinal Wolsey? This is the documentary for you! Simon Schama will bring to life what our required viewing offers in a simple podcast.

Monday 23 May: The King's Two Bodies

Venue: Westminster Abbey

Required Reading/Viewing: The Burial of Elizabeth I

Links: <http://www.westminster---abbey.org/our---history/royals/elizabeth---i>

<http://www.westminster---abbey.org/our---history/the---coronation---chair>

- In terms of royal theory, Westminster is a magical place where mortals are transformed into sovereign kings. In preparation for our visit be sure to explore this brief description of Elizabeth I's coronation and burial at the abbey and the description of the royal coronation chair. During our visit we

will tour the royal necropolis to discuss the mythology around the anointing and death of kings.

Optional Further Viewing: Episode Seven “The Queen’s Body” of Simon Schama’s *History of Britain* in the Optional Further Reading/Viewing section (below)

- Always been fascinated by Queen Elizabeth? This is the documentary for you! Simon Schama will bring her to life and at the same time explore the challenges that women faced ruling over early modern kingdoms.

Tuesday 24 May: The Image of the King

Venue: The National Portrait Gallery

Required Reading/Viewing: An Introduction to Tudor Portraiture

Link: <http://www.npg.org.uk/collections/explore/by---period/tudor.php>

- This video will provide you with an overview of what the National Portrait Gallery holds so that we can explore together the iconography and uses of royal portraits during the Tudor and Stuart periods. On my summer abroad at the University of Oxford I took a course on Tudor portraiture and enjoyed it a great deal. I want to share that experience with you by teaching you to decode the messages about power hidden within these painting.

Paris

Wednesday 25 May: Travel to Paris

Catalyst Orientation

Thursday 26 May: The Catalyst Experience: Meeting the Paris Classroom

Friday 27 May: Divine Right Monarchy

Venues: The Sainte Chapelle and Notre Dame

Required Reading/Viewing

Link 1: 3D Tours of Paris

Links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=---64kHmCJGMA>

- This 3D virtual tour of Paris will help orient you. Pay particular attention to the sections on the Île de Cité, Louvre and Bastille.

Link 2: Introduction to the Sainte Chapelle

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHgHMglUzUo>

- This short video provides a good introduction to this gem of medieval gothic architecture.

Reading Packet: Absolutism in Practice

- I created this packet for a source collection that is currently being readied for publication. For our trip the Sainte Chapelle and Notre Dame examine the Introduction and Sources 1 and 8.

Saturday 28 May: L'état, c'est moi

Venue: Versailles

Required Reading/Viewing: Louis XIV at Versailles

Link: <http://www.versailles3d.com/en/>

- Check out this fantastic 3D virtual Tour of Versailles. It provides the perfect orientation for our visit, allowing you to see how the palace evolved from a small hunting lodge to the most magnificent royal residence in Europe.

Reading Packet: Absolutism in Practice

- For our trip to Versailles read sources 2, 3, 4 and 5. These sources provide descriptions of the palace and some of the activities that took place in it.

Sunday 29 May: The Collapse of the Ancien Regime

Venues: Pantheon, Place de la Concorde, Les Invalides

Required Reading/Viewing: The French Revolution Tearing up History

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78u2nOEZliE>

- This fascinating BBC documentary explores how the French Revolution destroyed or repurposed the imagery of monarchy. It provides the perfect introduction to reading the French Revolution in the Parisian landscape.

Monday 30 May: The Nature of Power and Authority: Reddux

Venue: The Louvre

Required Reading/Viewing: None Wednesday 1 June: Final Examination

Recommended Further Reading:

While travelling in Europe, you might consider reading some historical fiction that touch the subject matter of our course.

Alexander Dumas, *The Three Musketeers*—A classic tale of adventures during the reign of Louis XIII and his first minister Cardinal Richelieu

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*—An epic story set in London and Paris during the French Revolution.

Hillary Mantel, *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies*—Award winning recent historical novels that explore political intrigue at the Tudor Court. Note that Masterpiece theater has also created film adaptations of these novels.

Peter Whitfield, *London: A Life in Maps*—A great introduction to London as a historical landscape.

Evaluation:

Students in this course will be evaluated based on their performance on a final examination, five blog entries/reaction essays, and their course participation. Attendance is required at every class session, as pursuant to The Catalyst Program academic policy.

Exam:

There will be one comprehensive final exam in the class that will consist of questions taken from academic lectures, class walks, site visits, readings, and cultural experiences encountered as part of the course.

Blog Entries/Reaction Essays:

Students will complete five blog entries/reaction essays that will either be posted to a ThroneGAMES Facebook page or emailed privately to the instructor. There are nine class days specifically allocated to the ThroneGAMES course. Thus, you need to do a blog entry/reaction essay for about half the class activities. Students will be assigned to one of two groups that will alternate blogs for that day. Each day there will be a theme to address that will incorporate the day's class activity, the reading, and your reactions to each. These groups will be determined at our first meeting in London. **At that time I will also explain the timing and procedures for completing and submitting blogs/reactions. To make sure that all students complete 5 blogs/reactions, both groups will submit on the final day in Paris as part of a review for the final. Each blog/reaction will be worth 10 points for a total of 50 points**

Participation:

Given the unique character of the Catalyst program, participation in all course activities is mandatory. 100 points are assigned for your

participation grade. Students are expected to arrive on time (every time!) and to actively participate in all scheduled activities. Participation includes being present (physically and mentally), on time, having done the required reading, and actively engaging in discussions/sharing ideas with classmates. If a student misses a scheduled course activity, one letter grade will be deducted from the student's final grade. If a student misses two class activities, two letter grades will be deducted. If a student misses three class activities, the student will receive an F for the course, and face dismissal from the Catalyst program. It is also critical that you be on time for class meetings. You should plan to arrive at our meeting place at least five minutes prior to our formal meeting time. Being more than five minutes late for a formal meeting time will result in a minimum 20-point deduction for the Participation component of your grade. Being late twice will be treated as a missed class and penalized as discussed above. Even if you show up on time, you may receive deductions from your participation grade if you are obviously unprepared, unresponsive, uncooperative, or behave in ways to worsen the course experience of other students.

Grading:

Final Exam	100 points
Blog Entries/Reaction Essays (5 @ 10 points each)	50 points
Participation	100 points
Total Points	250 points

Final grades will be calculated by adding your points across the final exam, blog entries/reaction essays, and participation opportunities, and dividing your point total by the total number of points possible in the class (i.e., 250). Students having any doubt about the grade they are earning in the course should visit with the instructors to clarify their situation.

No extra credit will be offered or accepted.

The following percentage scale will be applied to determine your grade:

90+% =A; 80–89% =B; 70-79% =C; 60-69 =D; 0-59% =F

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is when an individual paraphrases or quotes another writer's work without proper acknowledgement or citation. Any material falsely presented as one's own is considered plagiarism. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask before submitting your work. In that way, you can avoid any charges of plagiarism.

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(ADA) If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americanwith Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office of Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.