

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: History

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Comparative Monarchies

Course Code: HST 5410

Course Leader: Professor Alex Seago

Student Engagement Hours: **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course uses the theme of Monarchy to look at various issues in world history from the 6th century to end of the 17th century. Monarchical systems will be examined and compared from economic, political and cultural standpoints. The role of women within monarchies will be looked at across time and region. The importance of religion in the establishment of monarchical systems will be examined as well as the legitimization of kings and queens by religious beliefs. Challenges to monarchies worldwide have often arisen based on notions of democratization and these ideologies will be compared.

Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

The class aims to foster the acquisition, development and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of monarchies from c450-1690; which particularly encourages the development of critical thinking. The particular skills focused on include research skills, close reading skills, formulating and presenting a coherent argument in seminars and in writing based upon a critical understanding of a variety of primary and secondary sources.

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

5A(ii); 5A(iii); 5B(i); 5B(iii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of problems of constructing a comparative history of monarchies, and exercises a degree of critical judgements regarding historical context and evidence in this regard
- Demonstrates ability for analysing a wide range of primary and secondary sources about the history of monarchies.
- Have a fundamental grasp of methods for reading and interpreting printed primary source material.
- Demonstrates the accumulation of a detailed body of comparative historical knowledge regarding monarchies, as well as an understanding of the main themes raised by this knowledge
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Comparing monarchies across an international spectrum
- Religion in the establishment and the legitimization of monarchical systems
- Military and political conflict in the shaping of monarchies
- Monarchies and nation building
- Women in monarchical systems
- Monarchies and the production of art and material culture
- Challenges to monarchies by democratization or social conflict
- Using primary sources to understand monarchical systems

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a particular topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion, and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning.

