

**COURSE SPECIFICATION**  
**DOCUMENT****Academic School/Department:** CASS**Programme:**

History

**FEHQ Level:** 5**Course Title:** Comparative Monarchies: Games of Thrones**Course Code:** HST 5420**Course Leader:** Professor Alex Seago**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

**Semester:** FALL/ SPRING/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 9<sup>th</sup> century to end of the 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Prerequisites:** 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 c800-1800; 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:**

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 is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate 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
- Demonstrate 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.
- Demonstrate 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
- Complete 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 state 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 University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

**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

