Monarchy has existed throughout the recorded history of the Western world, although few people today would consider Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain to have much in common with such royal rulers as Charlemagne, Louis XIV, Peter the Great or even her namesake Elizabeth I of England. In this seminar we will survey the ways in which monarchy is a historical phenomenon – that is, the ways in which it has changed over time, the ways people have modified it to suit them in different times and places and the changing ways in which it has been studied and understood.

As we move through the semester I invite each of you to articulate your own historical questions about monarchy in European history. What do you need to know about it?

The primary work for this course will be to read a quantity of material for each weekly meeting, coming to class prepared to take a leadership role in our discussions each week. A seminar is only as good as its weakest link!

In addition each student will identify a research topic of interest to her or him and produce a paper of about twenty pages on a focused and articulated question related to that topic. This is an opportunity to gain competence in conducting historical research, and I expect that each of you will consult with me regularly as your project advances, both in my office and during class meetings where I will encourage you to share your research difficulties and successes.

Most of the readings will be available on reserve: electronic reserve where possible; JSTOR or other database in some cases; occasionally through hard copy, 2-hour reserve (you can make individual copies, but we cannot exceed legal limits on the amount of material copied for the class). As I indicated via email last month, I urge you to purchase three books of which we will be reading the majority:


As this seminar will focus on a close and careful reading of the texts, as well as frequent references to the texts during our discussions, each student is required to bring a personal copy of all readings to class. You may bring laptops or paper copies.

Graded work for the course is listed below:

- Research paper 50 %
- Class participation 30 %
- Leading a discussion 10 %
- Reporting on a monarch 10 %

In addition I will ask you to submit a prospectus for your paper and a preliminary research bibliography. I will return these with comments, but without grades. The more work you put into these assignments the more valuable the feedback I can provide.

Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments

Jan. 9  
Introduction

Jan. 16:  
The idea of a king

Ernst H. Kantorowicz. The King’s Two Bodies. A Study in Mediaeval Political Theology. Princeton UP 1957.

- Introduction pp 3-6
- Ch. 1. The Problem: Plowden's Reports, 7-23
- Ch. 7. The King Never Dies, 314-372.


Jan. 23  
Christian kingship?

Bloch, Marc, The Royal Touch, Book I, Ch. 1-2

Alain Boureau, “How Christian Was the Sacralization of Monarchy in Western Europe (Twelfth-Fifteenth Centuries)” Deploige, Mystifying the Monarch 25-34.

Jeroen Deploige, “Political Assassination and Sanctification. Transforming Discursive Customs after the Murder of the Flemish Count Charles the Good (1127)” Deploige, Mystifying the Monarch 35-54


Jan. 30  
Monarchy and religious crisis

Monod, The Power of Kings, Ch. 3-5.
Feb. 6  The monarch and the state

Monod, *The Power of Kings*, Ch. 6-7


G. Durand, "What is Absolutism?" in R. Hatton, ed., *Louis XIV and Absolutism*

Feb. 13  The baroque court and the capital city


Mollenauer, Lynn, *Strange Revelations: Magic, Poison and Sacrilege in Louis XIV’s France* (Penn State 2007), Intro and Ch. 5, "The Magic of Mistresses at the Court of Louis XIV."

Wortman, Ch. 2.

**Prospectus and preliminary bibliography due**

Feb. 20  Enlightened monarchy

Wortman, Ch. 3-4.


Feb. 27  Monarchy and the public sphere

Jürgen Habermas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* (MIT, 1989), Ch. 1, "Preliminary Demarcation of a Type of Bourgeois Public Sphere," pp. 1-26.


Mar. 6  SPRING BREAK

Mar. 13  French Revolution, I


Wortman, Ch. 5

Mar. 20  French Revolution, II

Hunt, Ch. 3- epilogue
Mar. 27  
**Recasting monarchical Europe**

Wortman, Ch. 6-8.

Plunkett, John Plunkett, *Queen Victoria, First Media Monarch*  
Ch. 1: Civic Publicness, 13-67.

Apr. 3  
**Modernizing monarchy**

Wortman, Ch. 9-12.


Apr. 10  
**Representing what?**

Plunkett, *Queen Victoria*, Ch. 4: Photography and the Royal Family, 144-198.

Wortman, Ch. 14-15.


Apr. 17  
**Collapse**

Wortman, Ch. 18, 20, 22 and Conclusion

Apr. 24  
**Survival**
