MA HISTORY

Module: HISM001

The Court of Charles I

Sample

Tutor: Dr Fiona Pogson
Module Synopsis, Aims, Outcomes, Assessment

Synopsis
This module examines the nature and character of the court of Charles I, exploring court politics, developments in court culture, and the extent to which the court influenced, was influenced by, and conflicted with, the interests and values of wider society.

Throughout the study of the module students will examine relevant source material – documentary and visual - and will explore the historiography of this subject.

Aims
This module aims
1. To explore in depth the social, political and cultural character of the court of Charles I, taking account of recent debate and controversy;
2. To develop students’ ability to critically interpret and use a varied range of relevant secondary and primary materials, and to be aware of their strengths and limitations;
3. To enhance conceptual understanding, enabling students to become more aware of the significance and value of historiography, current research and, where appropriate, different approaches and methodologies;
4. To develop students’ ability to communicate effectively and analytically at Masters level.

Learning Outcomes
Students will demonstrate:
1. A deep understanding of the social, political and cultural character of the court of Charles I, taking account of recent debate and controversy;
2. A more critical and assured appreciation of varied source materials in the essay;
3. A more informed and detailed understanding of current research and, where appropriate, of different methodologies in the subject;
4. Clear and effective communication skills for work in the subject at an advanced level.

Assessment

One 3000-word essay, due tbc.
Programme

Classes will take place on Thursday evenings, 6.00-9.00.
Room - tbc

Week 1
Early Modern European courts: shapes, structures and meanings
1625: The Jacobean inheritance
Charles I’s reforms of the court

Week 2
Patronage and politics before and during the Personal Rule
Collectors and connoisseurs: Charles I and the Earl of Arundel
Court portraiture: the Van Dyck years

Week 3
Seminar 1: Court Politics
Court drama: meanings of the masque

Week 4
The role of the Queen: Henrietta Maria as patron and participant
Religion at court
The court and the country: the origins of civil war?

Week 5
Seminar 2: Caroline art and drama
Postscript: the court at Oxford

Staff will also try to arrange a visit to see the exhibition on Henry, Prince of Wales at the National Portrait Gallery.
Seminars

18 October: Seminar 1 - Court Politics

Critically examine the importance of access to the king in the careers of the following:

(a) Richard Weston, Earl of Portland
(b) Francis, Lord Cottington;
(c) Philip Herbert, 4th Earl of Pembroke;
(d) Henry Rich, Earl of Holland;
(e) James, Marquis of Hamilton;
(f) Archbishop William Laud

Critically examine the ways in which Lord Deputy Wentworth tried to promote his interests while absent from court.

1 November: Seminar 2 – Caroline art and drama

Questions:

1. How significantly did Charles I add to the artistic environment of the English court before the arrival of Van Dyck in 1632?

2. Critically examine the significance of van Dyck’s equestrian portraits of the king.

3. Critically discuss the court masque as a vehicle for conveying the king’s vision of order and virtue.

4. How great an influence on Henrietta Maria’s cultural interests and activities was her Catholic faith?
Essay Titles

1. How convincing is the argument that court politics during the 1630s was conducted by rival factions with opposing ideological positions?

2. How effectively did Rubens and Van Dyck communicate the early Stuart monarchs’ belief in divinely-appointed kingship?

3. How far can it be argued that the masques performed during the reign of Charles I are evidence of an introverted and isolated court?

4. Critically examine the extent to which the art collection of Henry, Prince of Wales influenced the artistic interests of his brother, Charles I.

5. How significantly has recent scholarly writing on Queen Henrietta Maria changed our understanding of her political and cultural activities?

Alternatively, students may draft their own question in consultation with the tutor. The tutor must approve both the topic and the wording of the question by 1 November 2012.

Submission date: 29 November 2012
Bibliography

**General and Contextual**


Ian Atherton and Julie Sanders (eds), *The 1630s: Interdisciplinary essays on culture and politics in the Caroline era* (Manchester, 2006).


Jeroen Duindam, 'Rival Courts in Dynastic Europe: Vienna and Versailles 1550-1790', *The Court Historian*, 7 (2002), pp. 75-92. [see me]


Kevin Sharpe and Peter Lake (eds), *Culture and Politics in Early Stuart England* (Basingstoke, 1994).


David Starkey (ed.), The English Court from the Wars of the Roses to the Civil War (Harlow, 1987).

David Starkey, 'From Feud to Faction', History Today, 32 (Nov. 1982), pp. 16-22.


Review articles


The Jacobean Court and Caroline changes


S. J. Houston, James I (Harlow, 2nd edn, 1995).


Kevin Sharpe, The Personal Rule of Charles I (New Haven, 1992), [ch V]


Caroline Patronage and Politics


Linda Levy Peck, "'For a King not to be bountiful were a fault"': Perspectives on Court Patronage in Early Stuart England', Journal of British Studies, 25 (1986), pp. 31-61.


Malcolm Smuts, ‘George Wentworth goes to Court’, The Court Historian, 6 (2001), pp. 213-223. [see me]


**Biographical work**


Michelle Anne White, Henrietta Maria and the English Civil Wars (Aldershot, 2006).


Art


David Howarth, Lord Arundel and his Circle (New Haven, 1985).


Oliver Millar, Van Dyck in England (London, 1982).


Malcolm Smuts, ‘The Structure of the Court and the Roles of the Artist and Poet under Charles I’, The Court Historian, 9 (2004), pp. 103-117. [see me]


Drama

David Bevington and Peter Holbrook (eds), The Politics of the Stuart Court Masque (Cambridge, 1998).

Karen Britland, Drama at the Courts of Queen Henrietta Maria (Cambridge, 2006).


Susan Mary Steele, Plays and Masques at Court, 1558-1642 (New Haven, 1926).

The role of Henrietta Maria
Quentin Bone, Henrietta Maria, Queen of the Cavaliers (London, 1972).

Karen Britland, Drama at the Courts of Queen Henrietta Maria (Cambridge, 2006).


Caroline Hibbard, ‘The Role of a Queen Consort: The Household and Court of Henrietta Maria, 1625-1642’, in Ronald G. Asch and Adolf M.
Birke (eds), Princes, Patronage, and the Nobility: The Court at the
Beginning of the Modern Age c. 1450-1650 (Oxford, 1991),
p. 393-414.

Caroline Hibbard,
‘Translating Royalty: Henrietta Maria and the transition from
me]

Olwen Hufton,
‘Reflections on the Role of Women in the Early Modern Court’,
The Court Historian, 5 (2000), pp. 1-13. [see me]

Rosalind Kay Marshall,

Carola Oman,
Henrietta Maria (London, 1936).

Alison Plowden,
Henrietta Maria: Charles I’s Indomitable Queen (Stroud, 2001).

Julie Sanders,
‘Caroline Salon Culture and Female Agency: The Countess of
Carlisle, Henrietta Maria, and Public Theatre’, Theatre Journal, 52

R. Malcolm Smuts,
‘The Puritan followers of Henrietta Maria in the 1630s’, English
Historical Review, 93 (1978), pp. 26-45 - but see his revised
version in Griffey (ed.).

Erica Veevers,
Images of Love and Religion: Queen Henrietta Maria and court
entertainments (Cambridge, 1989).

Michelle Anne White,
Henrietta Maria and the English Civil Wars (Aldershot, 2006).

Religion at Court
Gordon Albion,
Charles I and the Court of Rome (London, 1935).

Caroline Hibbard,
Charles I and the Popish Plot (Chapel Hill, 1983).

John D. Krugler,
‘The Calvert Family, Catholicism, and Court Politics in Early
392.

Peter Lake,
‘Anti-popery: the Structure of a Prejudice’, in Richard Cust and
Ann Hughes (eds), Conflict in Early Stuart England (Harlow,
1989), pp. 72-106.

Graham Parry,
The Golden Age Restor’d: the Culture of the Stuart Court, 1603-
42 (Manchester, 1981).

Erica Veevers,
Images of Love and Religion: Queen Henrietta Maria and court
entertainments (Cambridge, 1989).

Court and Country
Richard Cust,
‘News and politics in early seventeenth-century England’, In
Richard Cust and Ann Hughes (eds), The English Civil War

Leah S. Marcus,
‘Politics and Pastoral: Writing the Court on the Countryside’, in
Kevin Sharpe and Peter Lake (eds), Culture and Politics in Early
Stuart England (Basingstoke, 1994), pp. 139-159.

J. C. Robertson,
‘Caroline Culture: Bridging Court and Country?’, History, 75
(1990), pp. 388-416.

Kevin Sharpe,
‘Crown, Parliament and Locality: Government and
Communication in Early Stuart England’, English Historical

Kevin Sharpe,
Criticism and Compliment: The Politics of Literature in the

Malcolm Smuts,
Culture and Power (Basingstoke, 1999).


The Court at Oxford
Jason McElligott and David L. Smith (eds), Royalists and Royalism during the English Civil Wars (Cambridge, 2007).

Websites
http://www.hrp.org.uk/BanquetingHouse/The_storiesRubensceilingpaintings
For information on the Rubens ceiling in the Banqueting House, Whitehall

www.nmm.ac.uk/server/show/conWebDoc.143
The National Maritime Museum’s pages on masques and music at the Stuart Court

www.npg.org.uk/live/search/person.asp?search+sa%5Text=van+Dyck&LinkID=mp04604&role=art
The National Portrait Gallery’s pages on Van Dyck

www.nationalgallery.org.uk/cgi-bin/WebObjects.dll/CollectionPublisher.woa/wa/artistBiography?artistID=223
The National Gallery’s pages on Van Dyck.

The National Portrait Gallery’s current exhibition on Henry, Prince of Wales.