



LIVERPOOL HOPE  
UNIVERSITY

Est. 1844

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

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|--------|---|
| Week 1 | Early Modern European courts: shapes, structures and meanings<br>1625: The Jacobean inheritance<br>Charles I's reforms of the court                                   |
| Week 2 | Patronage and politics before and during the Personal Rule<br>Collectors and connoisseurs: Charles I and the Earl of Arundel<br>Court portraiture: the Van Dyck years |
| Week 3 | Seminar 1: Court Politics<br>Court drama: meanings of the masque  |
| Week 4 | The role of the Queen: Henrietta Maria as patron and participant<br>Religion at court<br>The court and the country: the origins of civil war?                         |
| Week 5 | Seminar 2: Caroline art and drama<br>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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

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The National Gallery's pages on Van Dyck.

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