HIST502A: Seminar in British History: Early Modern England
"The World Turned Upside-Down": 1st Semester, September-December 2010

A survey of the social, cultural and political history of early modern England, with a particular emphasis on the seventeenth century. Topics include Jacobean sex scandals, murder pamphlets, the English Civil War, the execution of Charles I, radical religion and the Interregnum, the Restoration and the Glorious Revolution. We will also place a considerable emphasis on social and cultural history, including social hierarchy, gender, crime, marriage and everyday life, and religious and providential discourses. This course is intended to give the advanced student a general introduction to some of the main primary sources and some of the most important secondary works and historiographical issues.

CLASSES: Tuesdays, 10:30 am- 1:30 pm, DSB (David Strong Building) C124

INSTRUCTOR: Dr Andrea McKenzie
Office: Room B211 Clearihue Building (B Wing)
Office hours: 10-11 Mondays and Thursdays, or by appointment
telephone: 250 721-7403; email: mckenzie@uvic.ca

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:

REQUIRED/SUPPLEMENTAL AND RECOMMENDED READINGS:
Some of the required/supplemental readings will be scanned and posted on Moodle; others are available at the library or electronically via library databases

ASSESSMENT:
80% = 4 short seminar papers (5-6 pages, or about 1,500-1,750 words), each worth 20% of the course grade, on four of the eight seminar readings, and addressing the question(s) for that particular week. You are encouraged to read some of the recommended readings as well, especially if you are writing a seminar paper for that week.

20% = course participation, consisting of two informal presentations/discussions of selected weekly supplemental readings (articles/chapters in books) and seminar participation generally.
SEMESTER SCHEDULE

WEEK 1. 14 September 2010. Introduction and organisational meeting.
**Required reading:** 1). Peter Lake and Steve Pincus, "Rethinking the Public Sphere in Early Modern England", *Journal of British Studies* (April, 2006). While this is an introductory meeting only N.i.e., we will not specifically discuss the reading N this article is intended to provide a useful introduction to some of the issues we will discuss in class in regard to print culture, the public sphere, and the emergence of modern political discourses in seventeenth-century England.

WEEK 2. 21 September 2010. Hierarchy, Deference & Defiance in Early Modern England


**Question for discussion/seminar paper:** Were social relations in early modern England characterised by conflict or deference/consensus (or both)? To what degree were ordinary men and women able to exercise agency?

**Recommended further reading:**

WEEK 3. 28 September 2010. Sex, Politics & Scandal in Jacobean England


**Question for discussion/seminar paper:** What do Jacobean sex scandals and verse libels tell us about seventeenth-century gender roles and early modern politics and society?
Recommended further reading for week 3:
Cynthia Herrup, A House in Gross Disorder: Sex, Law, and the 2nd Earl of Castlehaven (1999)

WEEK 4. 5 October 2010. Print, Providence and Protestantism in early 17th c England
Required reading: 1). Peter Lake, "Popular form, Puritan content? Two Puritan appropriations of the murder pamphlet for mid-seventeenth-century London", in Anthony Fletcher and Peter Roberts, eds., Religion, Culture and Society in Early Modern Britain (1994); 2). A Murderer Punished and Pardoned; or a True Relation of the Wicked Life, and Shameful-Happy death of Thomas Savage, Imprisoned, justly Condemned, and twice Executed at Ratcliff, for his Bloody Fact in Killing his Fellow-Servant (1668); 3). "A True Account of the wicked Life and penitent End of Thomas Savage...", in Increase Mather, The Wonders of Free-Grace: Or, a Compleat History of all the Remarkable Penitents That have been Executed at Tyburn (1690)


Question for discussion/seminar paper: What sort of early modern preoccupations, assumptions and beliefs are expressed in seventeenth-century murder pamphlets?

Recommended further reading:

WEEK 5. 12 October 2010. The Trial and Execution of Charles I
Required readings: 1). Patricia Crawford, "Charles Stuart, That Man of Blood", in Peter Gaunt ed., The English Civil War (2000); 2). Excerpts from J.G. Muddiman, Trial of King Charles the First (1928), pp. 75-80; 81-4; 129-31; 231-2; 260-2 114-129; 3). Excerpts from Philip A. Knachel, ed., Eikon Basilike: The Portraiture of His Sacred Majesty in His Solitudes and Sufferings (1966), pp. 3-5; 11-13; 171-180; 292-294


Question for discussion/seminar paper: How did contemporaries justify the execution of Charles I? How did Charles I justify his behaviour and represent himself to his critics? What do the justifications on both sides tell us about seventeenth-century English politics and culture?
Recommended further reading:
C.V. Wedgewood, *The Trial of Charles I* (1964)

WEEK 6. 26 October 2010. **The World Turned Upside-Down: Ranters & Levellers**


*Question for discussion/seminar paper:* What was so disturbing about the radical ideas and practices that sprang up during the Interregnum, especially those espoused by Levellers, Diggers and Ranters?

*Recommended further reading:*
Christopher Hill, *The World Turned Upside Down: Radical Ideas during the Interregnum* (1972)

WEEK 7. 2 November 2010. **Patriarchy, Parents & Children in 17th c England**


*Questions for discussion/seminar paper:* To what extent were daughters in early modern England subservient to the authority of their fathers? How different were relationships between seventeenth-century parents and children from that of today?

*Recommended further reading:*
WEEK 8. 9 November 2010. Bad Marriages & Domestic Violence in 17th & 18thc England

**Required reading:** 1). Margaret R. Hunt, "The great danger she had reason to believe she was in": Wife-Beating in the Eighteenth Century", in Valerie Frith ed., Women and History: Voices from Early Modern England (1995); 2. A Hellish Murther Committed by a French Midwife on the Body of her Husband (1688) and other selections from contemporary criminal pamphlets


**Question for discussion/seminar paper:** To what degree did husbands in early modern England exercise absolute authority over their wives? How different were relationships between seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century husbands and wives from those of today?

**Recommended further reading:**

WEEK 9. 16 November 2010. Gender transgressions in early modern England


**Supplemental reading:** 1). N. Z. Davis,"Women on Top", in her Society and Culture in Early Modern France (1975); 2) Jean E. Howard, "Crossdressing, the Theatre, and Gender Struggle in Early Modern England, Shakespeare Quarterly 39 (1988): 418-40; also reprinted in Lesley Ferris, ed., Crossing the Stage: Controversies on Cross-Dressing (1993)

**Question for discussion/seminar paper:** What do cross-dressing women tell us about contemporary attitudes and beliefs about gender and gender roles?

**Recommended further reading:**
Thomas Laqueur, Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud (1990)
David Cressy, Agnes Bowker’s Cat: Travesties and Transgressions in Tudor and Stuart England (2001)

WEEK 11. 23 November 2010. Plots, Politics and Anti-popery in Restoration England


Question for discussion/seminar paper: How did Catholic defendants attempt to demonstrate their innocence during the Popish Plot persecutions? What do their trials and executions tell us about contemporary attitudes and beliefs?

Recommended further reading:
John Miller, Popery and Politics in England, 1660-1688 (1973)
John Kenyon, The Popish Plot (1972)

WEEK 12. 30 November. Antipopery, Protestantism & National Memory in 17th c England
Required reading: 1). David Cressy, "The Politics of Memory in Later Stuart England", in his Bonfires and Bells: National Memory and the Protestant Calendar in Elizabethan and Stuart England (1989); 2). The Protestant Martyrs: or the Bloody Assizes [1688] (also available electronically through Early English Books Online); 3). Issues of the English Currant (newspaper), from 12 December 1688 to 9 January 1689


Question for discussion/seminar paper: To what degree did the politics of national memory unite Englishmen and women in the late Stuart period?

Recommended further reading :
Tim Harris, Politics under the Later Stuarts: Party Conflict in a Divided Society (1993)