

**HIST502A: Seminar in British History. Early Modern England**  
 ~The World Turned Upside-Down": 1<sup>st</sup> 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  
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**RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:**

Robert Bucholz & Newton Key, *Early Modern England, 1485-1714* (2004)  
 Barry Coward, *The Stuart Age: A History of England 1603-1714*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (2003)  
 Roger Lockyer, *Tudor and Stuart Britain, 1485-1714*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (2005)  
 Patricia Crawford & Susan Mendelson, *Women in Early Modern England* (1998)

**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.

## SEMINAR 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**

**Required readings:** 1). Michael J. Braddick and John Walter, "Grids of power: order, hierarchy and subordination in early modern society", in Michael Braddick and John Walter, ed., *Negotiating Power in Early Modern Society: Order, Hierarchy, and Subordination in Britain and Ireland* (Cambridge, 2001); 2). Christopher Marsh, "Order and Place in England, 1580-1640: The View from the Pew", in *Journal of British Studies*, 44:1 (2005), 3-26; and 3). Andy Wood, "Fear, Hatred and the Hidden Injuries of Class in Early Modern England", *Journal of Social History* (Spring 2006)

**Supplemental readings:** 1). Keith Wrightson, "Estates, Degrees and Sorts: Changing Perceptions of Society in Tudor and Stuart England", in Penny Corfield, ed., *Language, History and Class* (1991); 2). E.P. Thompson, "The Patricians and the Plebs", in *Customs in Common* (1991), 16-96

**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:**

Susan D. Amussen, *An Ordered Society: Gender & Class in Early Modern England* (1988)  
John Brewer and John Styles, ed., *An Ungovernable People: the English and their Law in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (1980)

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

**Required readings:** 1). Alastair Bellany, "'Rayling Rymes and Vaunting Verse': Libellous Politics in Early Stuart England", in Kevin Sharpe & Peter Lake eds., *Culture & Politics in Early Stuart England* (1993); 2). Cynthia Herrup, "'To Pluck Bright Honour from the Pale-Faced Moon': Gender and Honour in the Castlehaven Story", in *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, 6<sup>th</sup> series (1996)

**Supplemental reading:** 1). Thomas Cogswell, "Underground Verse and the Transformation of Early Stuart Political Culture", *Huntington Library Quarterly*, 60 (1998), 303-26; 2). Richard Cust, "News and Politics in Early Seventeenth-century England", *Past & Present*, 112 (1986)

**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:**

Alastair Bellany, *The Politics of Court Scandal in Early Modern England* (2002)

Adam Fox, *Oral and Literate Culture in England, 1500-1700* (2000)

Cynthia Herrup, *A House in Gross Disorder: Sex, Law, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Castlehaven* (1999)

**WEEK 4. 5 October 2010. Print, Providence and Protestantism in early 17<sup>th</sup> 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)

**Supplemental reading:** 1). Alexandra Walsham, *Providence in Early Modern England* (1999), ch. 2; Malcolm Gaskill, "Reporting Murder: Fiction in the Archives in Early Modern England", *Social History*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (January 1998), pp. 1-30

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

**Recommended further reading:**

Frances Dolan, *Dangerous Familiars: Representations of Domestic Crime in England* (1994)

Andrea McKenzie, *Tyburn's Martyrs: Execution in England, 1675-1775* (2007)

**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

**Supplemental reading for week 5:** 1). Andrew Lacey, "Charles the First and Christ the Second: the Creation of a Political Martyr", in Thomas S. Freeman and Thomas F. Mayer, ed., *Martyrs and Martyrdom in England* (2007); 2). Conrad Russell, "The Man Charles Stuart", in his *The Origins of the English Civil War* (1990)

**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)  
Jason Peacey, *The Regicides and the Execution of Charles I* (2001)

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

**Required reading:** 1). Excerpts from Christopher Hill and Edmund Dell, ed., *The Good Old Cause: the English Revolution of 1640-1660*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1969), "The Putney Debates", pp. 352-358; and "The Origins of Property", pp. 385-6; 2). Lawrence Clarkson, "The Lost Sheep Found", in J. Stachniewski and A. Pacheco ed., *Grace Abounding with Other Spiritual Autobiographies*; 3). 2). J.C. Davis, "Living with the living God: radical religion and the English Revolution", in Christopher Durston and Judith Maltby, ed., *Religion in Revolutionary England* (2006)

**Supplemental reading:** 1) Manfred Brod, "Politics and Prophecy in Seventeenth-Century England: The Case of Elizabeth Poole", in *Albion*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (Autumn, 1999), 395-412; 2). Colin Davis, "The Levellers and Christianity," in Peter Gaunt, ed., *The English Civil War: the Essential Readings*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000, 279-302

**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:**

Michael Braddick, *God's Fury, England's Fire: A New History of the English Civil Wars* (2008)  
Christopher Hill, *The World Turned Upside Down: Radical Ideas during the Interregnum* (1972)  
Anne Hughes, *Gangraena* (2004)

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

**Required reading:** 1). *The Life of Agnes Beaumont* (1674), repr. in Monica Furlong, ed., *The Trial of John Bunyan and the Persecution of the Puritans* (1978); 2). Excerpts from Alan Macfarlane, ed., *The Diary of Ralph Josselin, 1616-1683* (1976); 3). Linda Pollock, "Rethinking patriarchy and the Family in 17<sup>th</sup>-century England", *Journal of Family History* 23, 1 (1998), 3-27

**Supplemental reading:** 1) Paul Seaver, *Wallington's World* (1985), chapter 4: "Family and Friends"; 2). Patricia Crawford, *Blood, Bodies and Families in Early Modern England*, ch. 5, "The Sucking Child"

**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:**

Linda Pollock, *Forgotten children : Parent-child relations from 1500 to 1900* (1983)  
Bernard Capp, *When Gossips Meet: Women, Family and the Neighbourhood in Early Modern England* (2001)

**WEEK 8. 9 November 2010. Bad Marriages & Domestic Violence in 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>c 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

**Supplemental reading for week 8:** 1). Susan Dwyer Amussen, "Being Stirred to Much Unquietness": Violence and Domestic Violence in Early Modern England", *Journal of Women's History* 6, 2 (1992), 70-89; 2). Margaret Hunt, "Wife-beating, Domesticity and Women's Independence in Eighteenth-Century London", *Gender and History* 4, 1 (1992), 10-33

**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:**

Elizabeth Foyster, *Marital Violence: an English Family History, 1660-1857* (2005)  
Frances Dolan, *Marriage and Violence: the Early Modern Legacy* (2008)

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

1). David Cressy, "Gender Trouble and Cross-Dressing in Early Modern England", *The Journal of British Studies*, 35, 4 (October 1996), 438-465; 2). Captain Charles Johnson, *A general history of the pyrates, from their first rise and settlement in the island of Providence, to the present time*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London, 1724), pp. 157-173; 3). Richard Head and Francis Kirkman, *The English rogue described, in the life of Meriton Latroon; a witty extravagant* (1666; repr. 1928), pp. 152-166

**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**

**Required reading:** 1). Selected documents, excerpts from the *State Trials* & pamphlets; 2). Jonathan Scott, "England's troubles : Exhuming the Popish Plot", Tim Harris, Paul Seaward & Mark Goldie, ed., *The politics of religion in Restoration England* (1990), 107-31

**Supplemental reading:** 1). Andrea McKenzie, "God's Tribunal: Guilt, Innocence, and Execution in England, 1675-1775," *Cultural and Social History* 3 (2006), 121-144; Peter Lake, "Anti-Popery: The Structure of a Prejudice," Richard Cust and Ann Hughes, ed., *Conflict in Early Stuart England: Studies in Religion and Politics, 1603-1642* (1989)

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

**Supplemental reading:** 1). Rachel J. Weil, "The Politics of Legitimacy: Women and the Warming-pan Scandal", in Lois G. Schwoerer, ed., *The Revolution of 1688-1689* (1992);

**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)

Tony Claydon, *William III and the Godly Revolution* (1996)