

History 3400F
Queenship and Power in Early Modern
2024-25 | Fall 2024

Instructor: **Dr Sara Morrison**

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Office Hours: **Mon 11:00-12:00, Tues 1:00-2:00**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Course Description

This seminar course examines conflicts over gender and power, concerning the legitimacy of female rule in Europe 1450-1800. It emphasizes the political role and challenges of female rulers as queens regnant, queen-consorts, queen-mothers, and regents as they collaborated in the transmission of dynastic power through official and unofficial channels.

Prerequisite(s): Enrolment in third year or above.

Course Syllabus

Medieval and early modern queens led richly complex lives and were highly visible women active in a man's world. Linked to kings by marriage, family and property, queens were vital to the institution of the monarchy. From the late fifteenth century several women had become ruling queens (or queens regnant), as for example in Spain, England, Scotland, and Sweden. Regnant queens inherited the throne in dynastic families without male heirs, and where female rule was legitimate, they became female kings. Salic law in France prevented direct female rule except in cases of underage princes, where a queen mother functioned as regent (in place of a king) for her young sons. This concentration of female rulers in Europe between 1450-1700 led contemporaries such as Scottish reformer John Knox to voice disquiet concerning "the monstrous regiment of women."

This seminar course introduces students to pivotal research and sources in the rapidly evolving field of queenship studies. It also examines theories and practices of queenship in early modern Europe within the context of wider issues of gender, authority, and power. Students are encouraged to participate fully in oral discussions to develop both verbal and written communication skills in the smaller group setting of the seminar. Upon successful completion of this course:

- 1) Students will become familiar with the historiography of the field, engaging with it through their research and writing.
- 2) Students will learn to develop their own research questions in consultation with faculty and pursue them through all available and appropriate primary and secondary sources.

- 3) Students will develop their writing skills, learning to develop a complex and sustained historical argument, properly supported with evidence from primary and secondary sources.
- 4) Participation and communication skills are key elements of the course. Students will develop their oral skills in a small seminar setting; they will develop confidence in discussions of both source material and in the process of writing history.
- 5) Emphasis on seminar presentations will encourage clear and effective delivery of the student's own research and will foster positive feedback and discussion of other students' research.

Methods of Evaluation

Book Report & Review	20%	(Oral 5%; Written 15%; 2,000 words) TBA.
Class Leader	20%	TBA.
Class Participation	20%	Participation, Attendance, Discussion & Questions
Research Paper	40%	Includes Research Question, Proposal & Annotated Bibliography 22 October (5%) Progress report (10%) Weeks 9-11 Final Essay (12-15 pages) 22 November, accepted without penalty till 3 December. Provide a paper copy.

Book Report and Review (20%)

Students will have a wide choice of books available for their oral report and written review which is related to the weekly theme. Students provide a brief oral report (5%) on their chosen book and the following week hand in a written review and synthesis which incorporates your review, places your book in context, and reflects related class discussion (15%) The best way to approach this assignment is to write a draft 5-6 page report and critical review of your book to draw from for your short oral report (10 minutes); in the written submission you can also reflect on the general class discussion for contextualizing your book. Please contact the professor before any absence from the oral report; efforts will be made to either accommodate in class time or during office hours.

Class Discussant (20%) Schedule TBA

Students will take it in turn to function as the lead discussant for part of a seminar. There will be choice from a list of subjects related to the seminar. TBA, depending on class size.

Students seeking academic accommodation or consideration regarding absence from this class lead role must contact their Academic Advisory office and provide formal supporting documentation. Please contact the professor before any absence for the lead discussant role; efforts will be made to either accommodate presentation in class time or during office hours.

Class Participation (20%)

Attendance, preparation, and active participation. Students will be assigned a mark for each class, but the three lowest marks will be discounted.

Research Paper (40%)

This will develop in stages:

Essay Proposal, detailed Research Question, & Annotated Bibliography 22 October (5%)

Progress report (10%) in class Weeks 9-11

Final Essay (12-15 pages) due Friday 22 November with paper copy and accepted without penalty until 3 December. Paper copy.

Course-specific conditions

Students must attend at least seven of the twelve seminar meetings in order to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments.

Students must complete all course written assignments in order to pass the course.

Course Materials

Reading and advanced preparation are essential for a successful seminar class. Assignments will be based on class readings or materials students find in their own research.

Required Text:

Charles Beem. *Queenship and Power in Early Modern Europe*. London: Red Globe Books, 2020. Students will also be able to see this information on their Personal Textbook list.

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2024A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/HIS3400F)

[search?campus=UWO&term=W2024A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/HIS3400F](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2024A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/HIS3400F)

Other readings will be made available in OWL Brightspace or through Weldon Library Course Reserves.

Draft Seminar Themes

- Introduction: Gender & Power: Official and Unofficial
- Debating the Legitimacy of Female Rule; Challenges & Definitions
- The role of Queens: Regnant, Regent, Consort, Dowager Queens, & Queen Mothers
- Female Rule, Dynastic Networks & Patronage
- Spanish Queens Regnant: Isabella of Castile & Juana the Mad
- English Queens Regnant: Mary Tudor & Lady Jane Grey
- Regnant Queens and Male consorts
- Mary Stuart (French Queen Consort & Regnant Queen of Scotland)
- 17th century Queens Regnant: Christina of Sweden, Mary II, and Queen Anne
- 18th century Queens Regnant: Marie Therese and Catherine the Great

- The French Queen Mothers: Catherine de Medici, Marie de Medici & Anne of Austria; Spain: Marianna of Austria
- Female Regents in the Habsburg empire: Margaret of Austria, Mary of Hungary & Margaret of Parma
- Queen Consorts: Tudors: Elizabeth of York, Catherine of Aragon (& Regent), Anne of Cleves, Katherine Parr (Step-mother & Dowager Queen) The Stuarts: Anna of Denmark, Henrietta Maria, Catherine of Braganza, Mary of Moderna; Elizabeth Stuart of Palatinate & Bohemia.
- Equivalent to Queens: Dogressa of Venice & smaller Italian states.
- Patronage & Influential Kinship Networks.

Draft Seminar Schedule

Week 1	Introduction: Gender & Power: Official and Unofficial.
Week 2	Female Rule and Legitimacy. Definitions & Challenges.
Week 3	Spanish Queens Regnant: Isabella of Castile; Juana the Mad.
Week 4	English Queens Regnant: Lady Jane Grey & Mary Tudor.
Week 5	British Queens Regnant: Mary Tudor & Philip: Mary Queen of Scots. READING BREAK
Week 6	Tudor Consorts as Regents & Dowager Queens: Elizabeth of York Katherine of Aragon, Anne of Cleves & Katherine Parr. <i>Essay Proposal & Annotated Bibliography 5% due</i>
Week 7	Queen Mothers & Habsburg Regents.
Week 8	Stuart Queen Consorts: Anne of Denmark, Henrietta Maria, Catherine of Braganza & Mary of Moderna; Elizabeth Stuart of Bohemia.
Week 9	17 th c Queens Regnant: Christina of Sweden; Mary II & Queen Anne. <i>Student progress reports begin (10%).</i>
Week 10	18 th c Enlightened Despots: Maria Theresa; Catherine of Russia. <i>Student progress reports. Essays (25%) due 23 November accepted without penalty till 3 April.</i>
Week 11	Evaluating Female Rule: Successes & Failures : Regnants, Regents, Consorts, Dowagers, & Queen Mothers <i>Student progress reports.</i>
Week 12	Christmas Celebrations at the Royal Court.

Additional Statements

Communication policies: The best way to contact me is by email, after class or during office hours. Please write using your UWO email account as it is less likely to end up in spam. If my office hours do not fit your schedule, I am happy to talk after class or try to arrange an alternative time to meet. Office hours are useful to clarify any issues concerning the course but are also an opportunity for further discussion.

Classroom behavior: Please turn off your phone and use laptops for notetaking only.

Use of electronic devices: Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the student has the prior written permission of the instructor. No electronic devices are permitted during tests and examinations.

Copyright and Intellectual Property: PowerPoint lecture slides and notes are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, videorecording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright, and is prohibited.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make any use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at:

https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.