Alison Schulz
Mosse Teaching Fellowship Proposal

Revolutionary Britain: civil war and commonwealth

This course will focus on the English civil war and commonwealth (1642-1660), a time when censorship laws broke down and hitherto (publicly) silent people found their voices, and when a handful of middle class men tried to form an entirely new government. A previously unknown variety of new ideas about politics, society, gender roles, science, and religion developed rapidly.

The diversity of ideas expressed, and the range of people expressing them, makes this arguably the most interesting period of British history. The brevity of the time period provides an opportunity to study mid-seventeenth-century Britain with an assortment of historical approaches—to provide a “taster course”, as it were, for history. This semester we will look at a few years in a north Atlantic archipelago through the lenses of political, military, intellectual, social, gender, cultural, and religious history.

There will be three exams, a fourth-credit paper, and quizzes for all of the books on the reading list. The quizzes will be worth 10% of your final grade. They’ll be multiple choice—nothing too onerous, as long as you’ve read the book.

Reading list:
Hobbes, Leviathan (Cambridge UP)
Reader (articles and primary sources)

Week 1: Introduction and background
The civil war today in historical debate
Introduction and the European context
Social and economic state of the British Isles, 1600-1642
Read: Hughes, Causes of the Civil War
Week II: Causes of the Civil War (continued)
    Religion in the British Isles from the Reformation to the Civil War; Quiz on
    Hughes
    Political problems of James VI & I and Charles I
    1638-1642 in the Three Kingdoms
Reader: The Form of Apology and Satisfaction, 1604; Bate’s Case, 1606; The Commons’
    Protestation, 1621; Petition of Right, 1628; The Triennial Act, 1641; The Grand
    Remonstrance, 1641; The Nineteen Propositions, 1642. Lindley, Sourcebook, pp. 1-20,
    35-104. Roots, Great Rebellion, Part I.

Week III: The Civil War
    The outbreak of war
    War and the New Model Army
    The New Model Army cont.
Reading: Roots, The Great Rebellion, chapters 8-14; Lindley, Sourcebook, pp. 20-24;
    105-135.

Week IV: The Second Civil War and Regicide
    Parliament and the Army
    The Second Civil War and Regicide
    Aftermath in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland
Reading: Roots, Great Rebellion, chapters 15-17; Finish Lindley, Sourcebook;

Week V: Religion, prophesy, and the press during the civil war
    Religion and prophesy during the civil war
    Religion and prophesy during the civil war (cont.). Quiz on Lindley.
    Exam 1
Reading: Davies, Unbridled Spirits, “prelude” and chapters 1-2

Week VI: The Commonwealth
    The press during the civil war
    Oliver Cromwell
    Political Experiments during the Commonwealth
Reading: Roots, Great Rebellion, chapters 18-21, 23; Reader: ballads and newspapers
    from the civil war.

Week VII: The Commonwealth cont.
    Political experiments cont
    Foreign policy during the commonwealth
    Religious policy of the commonwealth
Reading: Roots, Great Rebellion, chapter 22, 24-28; Reader/sourcebook (The Instrument
    of Government, 1653; An Ordinance for appointing Commissioners for approbation of
    Publique Preachers, 1654; An Ordinance for ejection Scandalous, Ignorant, and
    Insufficient Ministers and Schoolmasters, 1654; Instructions to the Major-Generals,
    1655; The Humble Petition and Advice, 1657)
Week VIII: Intellectual Revolution
   End of the commonwealth. Quiz on Roots.
   Parliamentary thought
   Royalist thought
Reading: Hill, *The World turned upside down*; Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Week IX: Intellectual Revolution part II
   Quiz on Hobbes; discussion of Hobbes
   Radical thought; Quiz on Hill; discussion of Hill
   Skepticism

Week X: Religious revolutionaries
   Hobbes and science
   Baptists and Millenarians
   Quakers and Seekers
Reading: Reading: selections from John Rogers, *The matter of revolution: science, poetry, and politics in the age of Milton*; and John Yolton, *Philosophy, religion and science in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries* in Reader. Finish Davies

Week XI: Social revolution?
   Women and religion. Quiz on Davies.
   Exam II
   Discuss Davies; Women and the family
Reading: reader (selections from female civil war authors)

Week XII: Consequences of the Civil War and Revolution. Fourth credit papers due Friday.
   The economy during the civil war and commonwealth
   Political Reaction
   Religious Reaction
Reading: *Reigns of Charles II and James VII & II*, chapters 1, 3, 4, 10; reader (The Declaration of Breda, 1660; Act of Oblivion, 1660; Corporations Act, 1661; Act of Uniformity, 1662; Conventicle Act, 1670)

Week XIII: Long-term consequences
   Social change?
   Political thought—reaction
   Political thought—"revolutionaries"
Reading: *Reigns*, chapters 2, 7-9

Week XIV: Long-term consequences continued
   The popular press
   Religion and the established church
   The Exclusion Crisis
Reading: *Reigns*, chapters 5-6; reader (selections from Sidney, L’Estrange, contemporary ballads)
Week XV: Conclusion
   The Events of 1688-9; Quiz on Reigns
   Film
   Summary and review
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Education

1998  Passed preliminary examinations.  
1997  M.A., history.  
       University of Wisconsin-Madison. USA.  
1996  B.A., history, summa cum laude.  
       University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK. USA.  
1991  Bexley High School, valedictorian. Bexley, OH. USA.

Dissertation  
"Patriarchalism in Tory Thought, 1660-1714"

Fields of Research  
History of Political Thought, Early Modern European History, British History,  
Women’s History, Legal History

Honors and Awards

1999  Fellowship to attend Warwick University as a visiting student for one year.  
1997  Javits Fellowship  

Experience

1999  Teaching Assistant, History 124 (Britain, 1688 to the present), University of Wisconsin-Madison