

History and Literature 90an

God Save the Queen! Ruling Women from Rome to the Renaissance

Spring 2018
Monday 1:00 - 3:00 pm

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Office hours: Tuesday 10:30-12:00, and by appointment

*God save the queen, she ain't no human being . . .
God save the queen—we mean it, man
We love our queen God saves!*

It's a safe bet that the Sex Pistols would have stuck out in any medieval palace. Their ambivalent lyrics, however, would strike a chord with medieval listeners. Queens, empresses, and other influential female figures occupied a curious position within medieval society: respected and even feared for the power they could exercise, but often disdained for the gender they embodied; loved and even revered as mothers by their subjects, yet frequently criticized as corrupters and confusers of "proper" rulership.

What we'll be talking about . . .

This semester, we will explore the complex and contradictory figure of the ruling woman from Late Antiquity to the early modern period, discussing the varied roles that queens played within their societies, their relationship to broader social and cultural institutions such as the Christian Church, and the ways in which queens were celebrated, criticized, and imagined by writers and artists of their time. By doing so, we not only will better understand what queens and queenship meant in medieval Europe, but also delve into broader ideological and cultural questions about sex and gender as components of identity, the intersection between gender and various forms of power, and the role of kinship and other seemingly "private" relationships in the "public" realm of premodern politics.

What we'll be doing . . .

This course emphasizes discussing a series of texts and images, organized around a series of chronologically-organized themes. Each of you is expected not only to read the material, but to think about it critically and to express your views (and consider the views of others) during our time together. Doing this successfully, of course, requires your presence in class. Being absent sometimes is unavoidable; it should not, however, become habitual. In turn, expertise is not required for engaged participation in this course: not knowing, or understanding, something always is an outstanding reason to speak up, question, and converse!

What I expect . . .

You will be evaluated on the basis of three main intellectual activities:

(1) As pointed out above, active and consistent participation in the intellectual work of the class (including regular attendance) is a *sine qua non* for the class's success. Your performance in this regard will make up 30% of your final grade.

(2) Over the course of the semester, you will write four shorter reflections about the individuals, texts, and themes raised in our readings and viewings; these written interventions will be shared with small peer editing groups, and posted on the course blog, for which you will serve as co-editors. Your blogging and editing work will comprise another 30% of your grade.

(3) The culmination of the semester will be an academic conference, in which each of you will present twenty-minute papers on a topic to be determined in consultation with me. These papers, together with the scholarly apparatus underpinning them (i.e. footnotes and bibliography) will be submitted to me at the end of the semester. It is your conference presentation, however, as well as your participation as interlocutors for your colleagues, that will serve as the real capstone to the seminar as a whole. In order to prepare you for success, I will include a number of research-related projects and presentations during the semester, which will provide you not only with the tools you will need to write your papers, but with a running start on the process of topic selection, research, and writing itself. Successful completion of *all* of the elements in this writing process (including drafts, rewrites, presentation, and final submission) will comprise 40% of your grade.

Reading materials (required)

Theresa Earenfight, *Queenship in Medieval Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

Prokopios, *The Secret History*, trans. Anthony Kaldellis (Hackett, 2010).

Encomium Emmae Reginae, trans. Alistair Campbell (Cambridge University Press, 1998).

The Táin: A New Translation of the Táin bó Cúailnge, trans. Ciaran Carson (Penguin, 2007)

Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, trans. Rosalind Brown-Grant (Penguin, 2000).

William Shakespeare, *Henry VI, Part II*, ed. Roger Warren (Oxford University Press, 2008).

William Shakespeare, *Richard III*, ed. John Jowett (Oxford University Press, 2008).

Other readings are available on the course Canvas site.

Additional reading

Queens and Queenship in Medieval Europe, ed. Anne Duggan (Boydell and Brewer, 2002).

Murielle Gaude-Ferragu, *Queenship in Medieval France, 1300-1500*, trans. Angela Krieger (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016)

Sean Gilsdorf, *Queenship and Sanctity: The Lives of Mathilda and the Epitaph of Adelheid* (Catholic University of America Press, 2004).

Judith Herrin, *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium* (Princeton University Press, 2001).

Simon MacLean, *Ottoman Queenship* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Medieval Queenship, ed. John Carmi Parsons (Palgrave-Macmillan, 1997).

Pauline Stafford, *Queens, Concubines, and Dowagers: The King's Wife in the Early Middle Ages* (Cassell, 1998).

Schedule

Weeks 1-3 (22 January-5 February)
Augusta: The Biblical and Roman Heritage

The Book of Esther

Laudatio Turiae

Hemelrijk, "Masculinity and Femininity in the 'Laudatio Turiae'"

Ambrose, *On the Emperor Theodosius* (selections)

Holum, "Theodosius the Great and his Women"

Procopius, *Secret History*

Garland, "Theodora"

Earenfight, *Queenship in Medieval Europe*, 31-53

Weeks 4-6 (12-26 February)
Sinners and Saints: Royal Wives in the Frankish World

Venantius Fortunatus, *Life of Radegund*

Anonymous, *Life of Baldbild*

Schulenburg, "The Making of the *Mulier Sancta*"

Sources on Brunbild

Nelson, "Queens as Jezebels"

Earenfight, *Queenship in Medieval Europe*, 53-78

Note: no class Monday, 19 February (Presidents Day)

Weeks 7-9 (5-19 March)
Home Sweet (?) Home: Making "Queenship"

Ermold the Black, *Poem in Honor of Louis* (selections)

Hincmar of Reims, "On the Governance of the Palace"

Nelson, "Early Medieval Rites of Queen-Making"

Older Life of Mathilda

Encomium Emmae Reginae

MacLean, "Queens and Dynasties in the Ninth and Tenth Centuries"

Tyler, "Fictions of Family"

Earenfight, *Queenship in Medieval Europe*, 79-122

Note: no class Monday, 12 March (Spring recess)

Weeks 10-12 (26 March-9 April)
Queen Takes Knight: Writing and Remembering the Queen

The Táin

Edel, "Caught Between History and Myth?"

Marie de France, "Preface", "Equitan", and "Lanval"

Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart*

McCracken, "Rumors, Rivalries, and the Queen's Secret Adultery"

Boccaccio, *Famous Men and Famous Women* (excerpts)

Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies* (selections)

Margolis, *Introduction to Christine de Pizan*, ch. 3

Earenfight, *Queenship in Medieval Europe*, 183-203

Weeks 13-14 (16-23 April)
Perilous Power: The Queen as Viper, Virago, and Virgin

John Knox, *The First Blast of the Trumpet*
Elizabeth I, speeches on marriage and succession (1559-67)
Jansen, "The Daughters of Margaret Beaufort"
Jankowski, "The Body Natural and the Body Politic"
Shakespeare, *Henry VI, Part II* OR *Richard III*
Mudan Finn, "A Queen in Jest"
Earenfight, *Queenship in Medieval Europe*, 247-257

Tuesday, 1 May
Queenship and Female Power in the Middle Ages: A Symposium
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Assignment schedule

Monday, 5 February: Issue 1 editorial meeting
Monday, 12 February: Issue 1 article drafts due
Friday, 16 February: Issue 1 article edits due
Monday, 19 February: Issue 1 final articles uploaded for publication
Monday, 19 February: Issue 2 editorial meeting (via email)
Tuesday-Wednesday, 20-21 February: Individual conference paper topic conferences
Monday, 26 February: Issue 2 article drafts due
Friday, 2 March: Issue 2 article edits due
Monday, 5 March: Issue 2 final articles uploaded for publication
Monday, 5 March: Issue 3 editorial meeting
Monday, 12 March: Issue 3 article drafts due
Monday, 19 March: Issue 3 article edits due
Monday, 19 March: Issue 4 editorial meeting
Wednesday, 21 March: Issue 3 final articles uploaded for publication
Monday, 26 March: Issue 4 article drafts due
Friday, 30 March: Issue 4 article edits due
Monday, 2 April: Issue 4 final articles uploaded for publication
Friday, 6 April: Paper drafts due
Thursday, 12 April: Paper draft conferences

Monday, 16 April: Conference panel assignments

Friday, 20 April: Final paper drafts due to fellow panelists

Friday, 27 April: All paper edits and comments due from panelists

Monday, 7 May: "Proceedings" version of conference paper (including images and footnotes) due