

HIST 98: The History of Female Kingship and Power

Course Facilitators:

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Course Overview:

Most of history is taught from the male perspective with emphasis on male conquest and achievement, today we break this cycle. One historian and author we will read in this class named William Monter, avoids calling female sovereigns “queens” as it may refer to the “wife of a king” in many European languages, he argues that a woman holding supreme power in her own right is properly described as a “female king”. In this course we will follow suit with his terminology and analyze six female kings and powerful position holders across various continents of the world. We will learn and analyze these sovereigns in relation to basic and royal life in the time period, and country of the monarch, along with the country’s culture and political dynamics, the monarch’s royal life in general, the early childhood of this monarch, their family ties, rise to power, political accomplishments, historical impacts, their death or fall from power and the aftermath of their life decisions. Then we will transition to analyze how they are portrayed on screen and in media, from documentaries to hollywood movies, and discuss how this impacts the image they have today. From big-name players like Cleopatra and Elizabeth the 1st to Ana Nzinga of Angola; we will cover multiple grounds to understand them as women and as politicians.

Prerequisites:

No prior knowledge needed

Disclaimer:

Structure of course is subject to change depending on whether we remain virtual or on campus. Currently this syllabus is edited for in-person teaching. If we remain online, then all lectures will be held synchronously over zoom. The second lecture on each ruler, will also be held over zoom with less emphasis on documentaries and movies (as some will not be able to play over zoom) and more on a discussion about readings and supplemental material dependent upon each ruler and their according materials.

Student Learning Objectives:

- Explain the lives of six female monarchs in history
- Understand the variety of types of oppression women faced throughout history in relation to these six power holders
- Understand the history of female political power and analyze its impacts on female political power today
- Create theories as to how and why these leaders are portrayed in a particular manner today and in mass media

Course Format and Methods of Instruction

Overall Format:

Every week there will be 2 hours of synchronous lecture. Each monarch we discuss will have 2 weeks' worth of content. The first week will be a full 2-hour lecture on the monarch and the second week will be a 30-minute lecture about the readings followed by either discussion or the viewing of a live documentary or film. Attendance is mandatory throughout the full 2 hours of lecture for each class. There will be approximately 10 - 35 pages of reading and/or 30 minutes - 2 hours of video/documentary materials as well, per week, weekly discussion posts throughout the course of the semester, a midterm paper, and a final research presentation. Office hours will be held by appointment during specified time frames of availability subject to the discretion of the course facilitators.

Discussion Posts:

Weekly discussion posts will open on the bcourses page every week on Sunday and using the readings and your prior knowledge of this monarch, you will be asked to answer one of the questions given and state your opinion using at least 200 words. After you post a response, you must also reply to at least one other students' post to get full credit each week. We will discuss your answers and questions to this forum in the second week of each module. These posts are worth **20 percent** of your final grade.

Midterm Paper:

The midterm paper must be a 3 - 5 page essay. You must reference at least two of the assigned course readings or video sources; outside sources are not necessary but accepted. This paper will require a "Works Cited" page that is not included in the total page count of the essay. Your essay must have a coherent thesis statement with multiple paragraphs defending your argument; these academic writing styles are accepted: MLA, APA, and Chicago Style. The midterm essay will be weighted as **25 percent** of the overall grade. The prompts will be released Saturday September 11th, 2021 (or week of Lecture 2) and will be due Wednesday, October 20th, at 11:59pm. Any and all course resources can be used on this Midterm. The course facilitators will provide more elaborate guidance during normal lecture hours as the midterm approaches.

Final Research Project Presentation:

The final presentation must be a 5 - 10 minute presentation. You must compare, contrast, and critique two monarchs on the grounds of their accomplishments, time period dynamics, rise to power, country dynamics and culture, effectiveness as a leader (in your point of view), if/how they were villainized or victimized, how they either did or didn't challenge the patriarchy, and consider possible alternative choices they could have made that could have changed the course of their life and history. You can also compare rulers you learned in this course with other political leaders male or female, from all time periods that have not gone over, as long as one ruler was covered in this course, just make sure to include your sources at the end of your presentation. The final project is **35 percent** of your final grade. It must be in PowerPoint/Google Slides format, recorded by the student, and submitted by the Monday of RRR Week at 11:59 pm.

Grading Policy:

Upon completion of the course, students will receive 1 unit of pass/no pass credit. In order to receive a passing grade, students must complete all assignments with a passing grade of 70% or more as well as attend the class according to the class-specific attendance policy (See 'Attendance' for more details). All individual assignments will be graded on a sliding, numerically-graded scale.

Breakdown of Grades:

Weekly Discussion Posts	20 %
Midterm Paper (3-5 pages)	25 %
Final Research Project Presentation	35 %
Participation and Attendance	20 %

Student Accommodations:

If you qualify for accommodations under Berkeley's Disabled Students Program, please make sure the course facilitators have received a copy of your DSP accommodation letter as soon as possible. This way we can ensure that you have suitable arrangements for quizzes, attendance, and paper assignments. If you believe you may qualify for accommodations, contact DSP (located at 260 Cesar Chavez Student Center or reachable at dsp.berkeley.edu).

Attendance:

Due to the importance of the lectures, students are only allowed to miss 2 sessions, only one absence of which may be unexcused. Any further absences will result in NP. However, if a student encounters a family or medical emergency and provides the appropriate documentation to the facilitators, arrangements can be made for the student to complete an alternative

assignment. If you would like to boost your participation grade, the usage of extra credit assignments are welcome. Remember that participation and attendance is worth 20 percent of your final grade. Furthermore, **attendance is necessary, but not sufficient, for a perfect participation grade.** Students will be expected to regularly participate in weekly discussions that will occur at the end of the second lecture of each module.

Extra Credit:

If you missed more than the limit for absences and/or want to improve your overall grade or make up a missed discussion post, we have extra credit for documentaries, movies, and or TV show episodes you can watch and write a 1-page summary analyzing how the monarch is being portrayed in the media. The maximum you can receive 2 points per assignment. Some of these documentaries may need a Netflix, Hulu or Amazon Prime subscription.

Required Readings:

Any and all required readings will be available online on the course's bCourses page. Students are expected to complete the readings *before* the start of the lecture covering the topic for which the reading was assigned. There will be some extra credit documentaries or movies that might need a Netflix, Hulu or Amazon Prime subscription.

Honor Code:

“As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others.”

Plagiarism:

We expect all work for this class to be originally inspired, originally written, and, if not, cited properly using the Chicago Manual of Style. If you are questioning the possibility that your actions constitute plagiarism, here is the guide on policies at Berkeley:
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Citations.html>.

Course Schedule

Lecture 1: Introduction – History of the Female Kinship + Intro to Empress Wu Zetian (Feb 2nd) -

This class will begin with introductions and then a brief overview of the format of the course. We will be trying to answer this question: What is the difference between Queen and King? We will briefly analyze what queenship looked like throughout history and whether female kings are more appropriate for certain job titles. We will look into why the distinction between queen and

female king is so important, and how this shapes a historical sense of femininity and women in places of power. Last but not least we will introduce our first monarch of the semester Empress Wu Zeitian.

Required Readings: none

Lecture 2: Empress Wu Zetian Continued (Feb 9th)

In this lecture, we will discuss the readings and take a deeper look into the life of Wu Zetian. During the first half of this lecture, we will discuss as a whole, the effectiveness of Wu Zeitian's reign, her experiences as a female leader in China. We will also discuss ways she was villainized, how her rise to power challenged the patriarchy and how her decisions impacted her life and the fate of China. For the second half of the lecture will watch together a documentary by Timeline, World History Documentary, called, "[The Only Empress Of China | Wu Zetian \(Chinese History Documentary\) | Timeline](#)".

Required Materials:

- "Empress Wu Zeitian in Fiction and in History: Female Defiance in Confucian China" by Dora Shu-Fang Dien *Chapter 4 (p. 27 - 59)*
- Rosser, Elizabeth Smith, and Rana Mitter. "Chinese Characters - Wu Zetian: The Female Emperor - BBC Sounds." *BBC News*, BBC, 2018, www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b09ycztp.

Discussion Post due: (Feb 15th @ midnight)

Extra Credit Material:

- "The Misunderstood Reign Of China's Only Empress | Wu Zetian | Absolute History." *YouTube*, YouTube, 18 Jan. 2020, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq-vW7xlGq8.

Lecture 3: Introduction to Lakshmi Bai, Rani of Jhansi (Feb 16th)

In this lecture, we will introduce Lakshmi Bai, the warrior Rani (Queen) of Jhansi or modern-day Northern India. Her iconic role as a warrior and a queen and her usage of females in battle against the British has made her name etched in the stone of history. We will discuss life in Jhansi during the late 1830s - 50s. The culture and dynamics of this region, along with royal life in general. The family ties, rise to power, political accomplishments that Lakshmi Bai was able to conduct during her lifetime. We will further our analysis of her historical impacts on her queendom, her death, and the aftermath of her reign.

Required Readings:

- "Lakshmi Bai Rani of Jhansi" p. 100 - 104, by C. A. Kincaid, Cambridge University Press.

Discussion Post due: (Feb 22nd @ midnight)

Lecture 4: Lakshmi Bai, Rani of Jhansi continued (Feb 23rd)

In this lecture, we will briefly discuss the readings and any questions. The questions and answers brought up in the discussion forum. We will continue and watch the 2019 film, “The Warrior Queen of Jhansi” directed by Swani Bhise, and analyze how they portray the queen and her accomplishments on screen.

Required Readings:

- “Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi” by R. Burn and Patrick Cadell, p. 76 - 78, Cambridge University Press
- “The Rani of Jhansi, A Study of Female Heroism in India” Chapter 1: “Jhansi and the Rani” p. 5 - 20, by Joyce Lebra Chapman, University of Hawaii Press

Extra Credit Material:

- Manikarnika: Queen of Jhansi (2019) directed by Kangana Ranaut, Krish

Discussion Post due: (March 1st @ midnight)

Lecture 5: Mary Queen of Scots (March 2nd)

This lecture will introduce Mary Queen of Scots also known as the Red Queen or Mary I of Scotland. Made famous for her marriages to Catherine de Medici’s son, Francis II of France and Lord Darnley (and her involvement in his death), and most infamously for her plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth I of England. We will dive a little deeper into general life in this time period and country along with the culture and dynamics with France and Scotland’s neighbors. We will look into the royal life of this monarch, their childhood, family ties, and rise to power. We will learn about her political accomplishments and the historical impacts her rule has today both, politically and socially. We will end with her death and legacy and aftermath she had on her country, and duty as sovereign.

Required Readings:

- “Mary (1542-1587), Queen of Scots” by Julian Goodare, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Vol. 37 Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2004. pp. 77-93

Extra Credit Material:

- Reign, ‘All It Cost Her.’”Season 4, Episode 16, Written by, April Blair and Laurie McCarthy. Aired: 16 June 2017

Discussion Post due: (March 8th @ midnight)

Lecture 6: Mary Queen of Scots continued (March 9th)

In this lecture, we will discuss the readings more in-depth and question the historical

facts around the beheading of Mary Queen of Scots. We will further dive into the ways Queen Mary 1st was villainized, pinned against her rivals and the ways her image is being used today. We will discuss the questions and answers brought up in the discussion forum. After, we will segway into the 2018 film, [“Mary Queen of Scots” directed by Josie Rourke](#), and analyze how she has gotten the name the Red Queen and how this impacts the way women are viewed today.

Required Materials:

- “The Complex Sisterhood Between Mary & Elizabeth I | Two Sisters | Real Royalty with Foxy Games” *YouTube*, YouTube, 14 Feb. 2020, www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqLcxzv2_-o.
- “Mary Queen of Scots : Romance and Nation. Part V: Epilogue p. 395 - 409” by Jayne Elizabeth Lewis, Routledge, 1998.

Discussion Post due: (March 15th @ midnight)

Lecture 7: Queen Elizabeth I of England (March 16th)

This lecture will introduce Queen Elizabeth I of England also known as the Warrior Queen or the Virgin Queen. Made famous for her reluctance to marriage, and her battle for the throne with Mary Queen of Scots, we will dive a little deeper into general life in this time period and country along with the culture and dynamics with England’s neighbors. We will look into the royal life of this monarch, their childhood, family ties, and rise to power. We will learn about her political accomplishments and the historical impacts her rule has today both, politically and socially. We will end with her death and legacy and aftermath she had on her country, and duty as sovereign.

Required Readings:

- Harmon, Melissa Burdick. “Queen Elizabeth I.” *Biography*, vol. 4, no. 4, Apr. 2000, p. 96.
- “The Rise of Female Kings in Europe, 1300-1800.” *The Rise of Female Kings in Europe, 1300-1800*, by E. William Monter, Yale University Press, 2012, pp. 123–155.

Extra Credit Material:

- Elizabeth (1998) directed by Shekhar Kapur

Discussion Post due: (March 30th @ midnight)

MIDTERM PAPER DUE (March. 20th)

Enjoy Spring Break March 21st - 25th, 2022

Lecture 8: Queen Elizabeth I of England continued (March 30th)

In this lecture, we will discuss the readings more in-depth and question the historical facts around the famous Tilbury Speech. We will further dive into the ways Elizabeth was villainized, victimized and the ways her image is being used today. We will discuss the questions and answers brought up in the discussion forum. After, we will segway into the 2007 movie, “Elizabeth: Golden Age” directed by Shekar Kapur. and analyze how her image might have been created and how it has impacted the world today.

Required Readings:

- “Elizabeth I: Chapter 10: The image and memory of Elizabeth” p. 112 - 126, by Patrick Collinson, Oxford University Press

Discussion Post due: (April 5th @ midnight)

Lecture 9: Queen Ana Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba (April 6th)

This lecture we switch from the Europeans to the African continent. We will introduce Queen Ana Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba also known as Queen Njinga of Modern Day northern Angola. Made famous for her resistance to the slave trade and battles with the portuguese, we will dive a little deeper into general life in this time period and country along with the culture and dynamics with Matamba, Ndongo and Portugal. We will look into the royal life of this warrior queen; her childhood, family ties, and rise to power. We will learn about her political accomplishments and the historical impacts her rule has today both, politically and socially. We will end with her death and legacy and aftermath she had on her country, and its current politics.

Required Materials:

- BBC News Africa “Queen Njinga Mbande”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPyy9gsu86Y>
- "Nzinga a Mbandi." by Selma Pantoja, Oxford African American Studies Center. September 30, 2012. Oxford University Press. Date of access 1 Apr. 2021,

Discussion Post due: (April 12th @ midnight)

Lecture 10: Queen Ana Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba continued (April 13th)

In this lecture, we will discuss the readings more in-depth and discuss the gender fluidity around monarchy and the historical facts of her military strategies. We will further dive into the ways Queen Nzinga is interpreted through spoken stories passed down through generations and discuss the questions and answers brought up in the discussion forum. After, we will segway into the podcast, [“Episode 80: Queen Nzinga” by Beckett Graham and Susan Vollenweider](#) learn about her life as a whole, analyze her military decisions and how this impacts our ideas of gender fluidity in places of power.

Required Readings:

- “Nzinga of Matamba in a New Perspective.” by Joseph C Miller, *The Journal of African History*, vol. 16, no. 2, 1975, pp. 201–216. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/180812.

Extra Credit:

- Njinga Queen of Angola, (2013) directed by: Sergio Graciano
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3463004/>

Discussion Post due: (April 19th @ midnight)

Lecture 11: Cleopatra VII Thea Philopator of Egypt (April 20th)

Last, but certainly not least, we have the famous Cleopatra VII of Egypt. This lecture we will introduce Pharaoh Cleopatra VII of Egypt also known as Cleopatra. Made famous for her alliances with Rome’s most powerful leaders, we will dive a little deeper into general life in this time period and country along with the culture and political dynamics with Rome. We will look into the royal life of this pharaoh; her childhood, family ties, and rise to power. We will learn about her political accomplishments and the historical impacts her rule has today both, politically and socially. We will end with her death and legacy and aftermath she had on her country, and modern-day media.

Required Materials:

- “History vs. Cleopatra” by Alex Gendler, TED-Ed, 2 Feb. 2017,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6EhRwn4zkc>
- "Cleopatra: A Biography" by Joyce Tyldesley, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15 Dec. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cleopatra-queen-of-Egypt>.

Extra Credit Materials:

- “Cleopatra” (1963) directed by: Joseph L. Mankiewicz

Discussion Post due: (April 26th @ midnight)

Lecture 12: Cleopatra VII of Egypt Thea Philopator (April 27th) Last Lecture

In this lecture, we will discuss the readings more in-depth and discuss the way the we remember Cleopatra today and her discuss the historical ambiguity regarding her relationships with Julius Caesar and Marc Antony We will further dive into the ways Cleopatra is portrayed in the media, the argument over her race and discuss the questions and answers brought up in the discussion forum. After, we will segway into the [BBC documentary, “Cleopatra, a Timewatch Guide”](#), with the historian Vanessa Collinridge, and discuss her views of how the story of Cleopatra has changed over time. In this lecture, we will discuss the queens overall and briefly discuss some honorable

mentions that we would have liked to add but didn't have time to discuss in this course. These include Catherine de Medici (Queen of France), Katherine the Great of Russia, Queen Amina of Zazzau (Nigeria), and Ranavola 1 of Madagascar. After we have brief overviews of these women. We will discuss ways in which history of women in places of political power impact the women in power in the 21st century, this includes, Margret Thatcher (First Female Prime Minister of the UK), Angela Merkel (First Female Chancellor of Germany), Kamala Harris (First Female Vice President of the US), Nancy Pelosi (First Female Speaker of the House), Hillary Clinton (First Female nominated for President of the U.S.), and more! We will use leftover time to allow students to work on their final presentations.

Required Materials:

- "Was Cleopatra One Of History's Biggest Killers? Portrait Of A Killer (Ancient Egypt Documentary)." *YouTube*, 26 June 2018, youtu.be/YFWRe2TqyPk.
- "Cleopatra : A Biography" Ch. 9 pg 129 - 151, by Duane W. Roller, Oxford University, Press USA - OSO, 2011. *ProQuest Ebook Central*

No Discussion Post due this week!

FINAL PRESENTATION DUE (5/13)