

Perspectives on Power Winter 2013

Professor: Michael Furtado
mfurtado@uoregon.edu

340V McKenzie Hall
541-346-4834

Office Hours: M 9:30-10:30; W 9:00 – 10:00, or by appointment

Teaching Asst: Brennan Duff
duff@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Meeting Time and Location: 166 Lawrence Hall, Fridays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Course Description

Welcome to Perspectives on Power! We will be looking at pairs of early modern rulers throughout this term. These were real rulers, who did wield great amounts of power in one way or another. But all of them were people as well -- and that means that they had their foibles and weaknesses, some of which managed to make their way to us in either historical sources or through the work of later investigative historians.

Equally important to our course will be a discussion on the nature of power, and the role of gender, economy, and social stratification in its implementation. Power in the early modern period, was often quite limited -- that is, what we imagine as "absolute monarchy" under monarchs such as Louis XIV was actually a very carefully orchestrated and artful balancing act between the king and the many very powerful nobles in his kingdom, each potentially political rivals and even deadly enemies. In the end, we will see that power in the era of the great kings was often anything but "absolute".

Course Objectives

Students enrolled in this course will learn how to:

- 1) Engage in basic historical research
- 2) Critically read historical sources
- 3) Engage in individual and team oral presentations
- 4) Write a supported argument with recourse to both primary and secondary references

Attendance and Grading

Attendance is Mandatory and critical to your success in this course. Not only is this a discussion course, but you will be evaluated for your individual and group performance on a weekly basis.

Grading

You will be graded on the following elements:

Attendance and Participation	35%
Individual Presentation	25%
Group Presentations	25%
Final Paper	15%

Each group will deal with one of two historical rulers at every meeting. Groups will have fifteen minutes to present the following information on that ruler:

- 1) Brief biographical summary
- 2) Summary of the reading assigned for the week
 - a. Include concerns for bias of the author, other elements we should consider
- 3) Highlights of most important or interesting elements
- 4) Assessment of the ruler within the larger context of the period
- 5) At least one reference from the library (can include online articles, etc.) consulted for the report
- 6) Any additional juicy or scandalous information you feel is important to relate.

WINNER!

Your Gamemaster (yours truly) will decide which of the two groups has done the best job on a weekly basis. That Group will then decide which rulers each group will address in the subsequent week!

WILDCARD

After the group presentation, any individual in the opposing group may present any fact or information known to them that they believe is particularly interesting but missing from the reporting group's presentation – and if all agree it is the juiciest, most scandalous, or important piece of additional information presented, they will receive an automatic 'A' for the week.

REPORTING

Each group must post a summary of findings (not required in prose format) weekly via Blackboard; please contact Brennan for instructions or assistance related to this process.

SOCIAL

We may schedule movie nights, a group lunch, or something of that kind if there is interest (all costs covered by me). We will not require them, but you are welcome to come!

Schedule of Class Meetings

Jan 9:	Introduction
Jan 16:	The Hongwu Emperor & Isabel of Castile
Jan 23:	Mochtezuma I & Hernan Cortes
Jan 30:	Charles V & Henry VIII
Feb 6:	Tokugawa Ieyasu & Elizabeth I
Feb 13:	Charles I & Oliver Cromwell
Feb 20:	Louis XIV & Catherine the Great
Feb 27:	Napoleon Bonaparte & Horatio Nelson
Mar 6:	Qianlong Emperor & George III
Mar 13:	Wrap up