History 121: Scotland and the English Civil War

Global Seminar - London (proposed)

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Many of the historical events that led up to and featured prominently in the English Civil War took place in and about London—in expected locations such as Parliament and royal palaces as well as in less likely locales, such as Putney fields. Studying these events in London will afford students an unparalleled opportunity to explore historical events where they actually occurred. It goes without saying that London’s possessions in terms of physical documentation (portraiture, architecture) are unsurpassed resources for students of this subject. To engage with this material in situ will provide students with a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience history coming alive as a subject.

For this course I plan to rely on an undergraduate-level text that provides a useful survey of the period, supplemented with copies of a range of primary source materials I will make available for free to students. I have already engaged in precisely this mode of intermingling primary with secondary materials in the current iteration of this course I teach in Global Seminars Edinburgh (2021). Again, the texts in my other (Hum 3) course will have direct thematic and, in many cases, historical relevance to the material covered in this course.

- Mark Kishlansky, A Monarchy Transformed

Assignments and Weightings

- Reading Quizzes (5%)
- Participation - to include written tour reflections (20%)
- Historical Figure Presentation (15%)
- Mid-Term Exam (30%)
- Final Exam (30%)

Instruction will take place via lecture and discussion. The exams will be in essay exam format. The one item in assignments which is not self-explanatory would be the “Historical Figure Presentation.” Each student will select a historical figure prominently mentioned in the course materials from a list I will provide at the beginning of the course. During our tours and museum visits, students will be required to do further research on their particular figure, in order to contribute a short class presentation and a short written component (turned in). The idea here is to allow each student to delve a little more deeply into one figure, using the resources available in London, resources that they will be introduced to on the tours as well as in class itself.