

The evolution of the modern British monarchy

Start date	10 March 2023	End date	12 March 2023
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge CB23 8AQ		
Tutor	Dr Seán Lang	Course code	2223NRX026

For further information contact inteng@ice.cam.ac.uk

Tutor biography

Dr Seán Lang is a Senior Lecturer in History at Anglia Ruskin University, where he specialises in modern European history and the history of the British Empire. He has taught widely at school, sixth form and university level and is a regular broadcaster on radio and television. He was much in demand for radio and television appearances both in the UK and internationally after the death in 2022 of Queen Elizabeth II.

He has published on British medical work in British India and textbooks on Parliamentary Reform, 1785-1928, Nazi Foreign Policy, 1933-1939 and Why the First World War Broke Out as well as four history titles in the popular 'For Dummies' series, including The First World War for Dummies. He has recently published on young people's writings at the end of the First World War and contributed to The Cambridge Companion to Winston Churchill. He is currently working on a collection of essays to be called *What History Do We Need?*

He has written extensively for the theatre and has had his work performed in Cambridge, London, Oxford, Norwich, Canada, and at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Dr Lang is a former Honorary Secretary of the Historical Association and has worked both with British government and with the Council of Europe on developments in school history.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 The End of the Second Elizabethan Era

22:00 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 The Hollow Crown – Medieval Monarchy

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Fabulously Absolute? – The Tudors and the Stuarts

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free time

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 The British Crown in the British Parliament

18:00 – 18:30 Free time

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 The Crown on the Screen

21:30 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 The Victorian Crown

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Monarchy, Empire, Commonwealth and the World

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

1. Discuss, from a basis of knowledge, the development and nature of the British monarchy
2. Analyse and make sense of a range of historical source material relating to the role of the monarchy
3. Assess the role played by monarchy in the modern world

Content:

Beginning with a survey of the meaning and significance of the 2022 Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II followed by her funeral, this course will look at the development of the role of monarchy from its origins in medieval Britain, to the transformation of monarchy's role under the Tudors and the disastrous clash with Parliament in the seventeenth century. We will look at the development of constitutional monarchy in the eighteenth century and the way the modern monarchy developed in the crucial period of Queen Victoria's reign. We will end by considering how the monarchy has played a role in the development of modern Britain and the Commonwealth and its possible future development.

Presentation of the course:

The course will involve illustrated lectures, group discussion and the study of documents and images relevant to the theme. There will also be a session looking at extracts from various film and television portrayals of monarchy. No prior knowledge is required.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Talk with confidence and knowledge about the historical development of the British monarchy.
2. Discuss with insight the relationship between monarchy and the wider shape of British and global politics
3. Evaluate and assess fictional presentations of the monarchy in the media
4. Reach an informed assessment about the role of the monarchy in modern Britain and in other parts of the Commonwealth

Reading and resources list

Below is a list of recommended materials none of which are compulsory to the course:

Black, J. (2022) *A Brief History of the British Monarchy* (Robinson)

Borman, T. (2021) *Crown and Sceptre: 1000 Years of Kings and Queens* (Hodder and Stoughton)

Hardman, R. (2022) *Queen of Our Times: the Life of Elizabeth II* (Macmillan)

Murphy, P. (2015) *Monarchy and the End of Empire: the House of Windsor, the British Government and the Postwar Commonwealth* (Oxford UP)

Pimlott, B. (2012) *The Queen: Elizabeth II and the Monarchy* (HarperPress)

Starkey, D. (2006) *Monarchy: from the Middle Ages to Modernity* (HarperPress)

Online resources:

The royal family website: <https://www.royal.uk/role-monarchy>

A selection of relevant articles from The Conversation: <https://theconversation.com/uk/topics/british-monarchy-35034>

From The Economist: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/09/15/why-the-monarchy-matters>