

Veranstalter	Dr. Thomas Matthew Vozar
Thema	Sad Stories of the Death of Kings: Shakespeare and the Monarchy
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-545
Zeit	Mi 16–18
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The coronation of King Charles III will take place in May this year, and journalist Robert Hardman reports that the festivities are expected to include “a lot of Shakespeare.” “It is obvious that Shakespeare was fascinated by royalty,” Charles once remarked to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. “The great thing is that his monarchs, who range from saintly to villainous, from inadequate to heroic are understandable, fallible human beings.” Charles’s upcoming coronation offers the opportunity to reconsider the relationship between Shakespeare and England’s kings and queens. What does Shakespeare mean to the monarchy, and what did the monarchy mean to him?

Seminars will explore this subject through a selection of histories and tragedies written by Shakespeare under the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. We will read five plays in full, namely *Richard III* (c. 1592), *Richard II* (c. 1595), *Henry V* (c. 1599), *King Lear* (c. 1605), and *Macbeth* (c. 1606), as well as excerpts from *1 Henry IV* (c. 1597) and *2 Henry IV* (c. 1598). We will also examine an online exhibition concerned with Shakespeare and the royal family over the past three centuries. Topics to be discussed include Shakespeare’s historical vision and source material, conflicting notions of kingship, royal succession and legitimacy, gender and the monarchy, the development of English nationalism and imperialism, the formation of the modern idea of Britain, and Shakespeare’s legacy as an author, as well as issues of textual criticism and performance.

Required Texts: You should acquire texts of the five Shakespeare plays that we will be reading in full, i.e. *Richard III*, *Richard II*, *Henry V*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*. I recommend the Arden series published by Bloomsbury, though the Cambridge and Norton editions are also appropriate. The excerpts from *1 Henry IV* and *2 Henry IV* will be provided via Agora.

Studienleistung: preparation of weekly reading, regular attendance, active participation in discussions and activities, seminar presentation.

Prüfungsleistung: term paper.