

Veranstalter	Dr. Thomas Matthew Vozar
Thema	The English Revolution: Literature and Politics, 1640–1660
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II (ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-12, AA7, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA04, AA-MA06, IAA21, IAA23, IAA24, IAA25)
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-545
Zeit	Mi 16–18
Raum	Ü35 – 01016
Beginn	19.10.22

What is the relationship between literature and politics? This course examines that question with a focus on one of the most tumultuous periods in British history, sometimes referred to as the English Revolution. The 1640s and 1650s witnessed violent civil wars throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland; the dismantling of the hierarchy of the Church of England; the trial and public execution of the monarch, Charles I; and the establishment of a republican Commonwealth, first as a “free state” and then as a military dictatorship headed by Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell. It was simultaneously a time of literary, philosophical, and religious ferment and experimentation, which produced some of the greatest poets and thinkers in the English tradition. In this course we will read a wide-ranging selection of prose and verse texts, including poems, polemics, philosophical treatises, political propaganda, religious pamphlets, newsbooks, speeches, letters, and biographies by such authors as Margaret Cavendish, Abiezer Coppe, James Harrington, Robert Herrick, Thomas Hobbes, Andrew Marvell, John Milton, Marchamont Nedham, and Katherine Philips. Most of the course will be concerned with writings from the 1640s and 1650s, but in the final weeks we will turn to the ways in which this period was remembered and reimagined after the Restoration of Charles II in 1660.

Recommended Reading:

Texts of all primary and secondary sources will be provided. While our seminars will include discussion of particular historical contexts, you may find it helpful to acquaint yourself with the general history of the period beforehand if this is unfamiliar to you. I highly recommend the excellent (as well as cheap and relatively short) overview provided by Blair Worden, *The English Civil Wars 1640–1660* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2009).

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

Prüfungsleistung: term paper.