How did the modern constitutional state in Britain develop? The period from the nearly despotic rule of the Tudor monarchs in the 16th century through the emergence of a limited constitutional monarchy in the 18th century was a tumultuous period of political conflict, civil war, and finally an established system of limited government. In this course we will study the political developments during this period through the lens of British political thought. In addition to reading major political thinkers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and David Hume, we will read at least one Shakespeare play that we can go see at the famous Globe Theater in London.

Almost all of the readings for this course will be accessible online for our convenience.

Assignments will include two short papers, a final paper, and a final examination.

| Week 1 | Shakespeare, perhaps \textit{Richard III} (but if possible a play performed at the Globe Theatre) |
| Week 2 | John Milton, “The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates” |
| Week 3 | Thomas Hobbes, \textit{Leviathan} |
| Week 4 | Thomas Hobbes, \textit{Leviathan} |
| Week 5 | Thomas Hobbes, \textit{Leviathan} |
| Week 6 | John Locke, \textit{Second Treatise on Government} |
| Week 7 | John Locke, \textit{Second Treatise on Government} |
| Week 8 | John Locke, \textit{Letter concerning Toleration} |
| Week 9 | David Hume, \textit{Essays on Politics} |
| Week 10 | David Hume, \textit{Essays on Politics} |