



# Early Modern Studies

## 1. What is the Early Modern Studies Program (EMSP)?

Many of the fundamental ideas about our world today were shaped centuries ago. Between the 16th and early 19th centuries, thinkers and artists built some of the intellectual and cultural foundations of the modern world. In the Early Modern Studies Program at the University of King's College, we consider conceptions of the modern self, nature, and the state, as well as the development of early modern art and literature, in relation to issues surrounding gender, religion, class, race, and empire. Students encounter ground-breaking art and artists like Shakespeare, Mozart, and Michelangelo and assess the significance of witchcraft, vampires, and maritime piracy in the early modern period. Students learn to think critically about colonialism and the impact of interactions between Europe and the wider world as well as how shifting ideas about religion and science have changed the way we understand our place in the universe.

## 2. Why study EMSP at King's and Dalhousie?

Like all of the upper-year programs at King's, EMSP can be taken as an honours subject, a minor, or for some exciting elective courses. The program is specifically designed to be pair with a subject at Dalhousie. Not only does this further encourage both Dal and King's students to think critically and across-disciplines, but they also graduate with a joint degree from both institutions. Honours students in Early Modern Studies have paired the program with subjects such as History, Gender and Woman Studies (GWST), Classics, Theatre Studies, and Philosophy. Many students choose to complete a Certificate in Art History and Visual Culture, which multiple EMSP electives count towards.

## 3. What courses are offered?

The Early Modern Studies Program offers three core classes: Structures of the Modern Self; Humanity, Nature, and Environment in the Early Modern Period; and Conceptions of State, Society, and Revolution. Additionally, EMSP offers many intriguing electives each year such as Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe, Asia and the West: Centuries of Dialogue, The Pirate and Piracy, Global Encounters in Early Modern Art, and Love, Lust, and Desire in the Italian Renaissance. Every other spring, the Early Modern Studies Program also offers an optional month-long course taught in Florence, Italy where students study art, literature, philosophy, and politics of Early Modern Italy through daily visits to the city's churches, places, and museums. All EMSP courses are open to Dalhousie students.

## 4. What kind of jobs do people with a degree in Early Modern Studies have?

EMSP alumni go on to engage in challenging and intriguing work, within academia and far beyond. From law to theatre to business innovation, the critical and creative thinking students practice in EMSP pays off.

## 5. Where to start?

Register for the second-year core class, EMSP 2001: Structures of the Modern Self, or any elective which sparks your interest. **Learn more** at <https://ukings.ca/area-of-study/early-modern-studies>. Have questions? Contact [registrar@ukings.ca](mailto:registrar@ukings.ca) for more information.



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