

Course Rationale

Power and Politics in Medieval Dubrovnik is an inter-disciplinary course that will allow students to explore Medieval History, often for the first time, and to build skills that are both relevant to history, anthropology and politics. It will help the students to understand how the Republic of Dubrovnik, known at the time as Ragusa, was able to become one of the most successful medieval city states, despite being one of the smallest, and allow students to analyse the government and politics behind this success to better understand how it was able to achieve this. Students will develop their analytical skills through study of both primary sources and the major secondary literature written on the topic, which will help to further their knowledge of the subject. This will help them to critically analyse the historic government of Republic of Dubrovnik and apply these skills to the governments of Modern Britain and the rest of the world.

The final assignment, entitled: *Evaluate the most important aspects of the government of medieval Dubrovnik*, will require students to use their analytical skills and their newfound understanding of the politics of Dubrovnik to critique the power each branch of the government held within the system. They will be expected to analyse the various parts of the government of Dubrovnik and compare their powers within the Republic. In order to do this, they will utilise the key primary sources and the opinions of experts in order to bolster their analysis. They will also have to acknowledge any counterarguments in order to bolster the argument in their final assessment. As a result, the students will be exposed to a new topic and aspect of history, they are unlikely to have studied, alongside university level critical thinking.