This course explores the rule of Louis XIV—the “Sun King” (1643–1715)—and the system of absolutism established at his court at Versailles. Topics for discussion include: the esthetic and political vision that led to the building of the Versailles palace and gardens; the politics of splendor which made Louis XIV the most admired and most imitated monarch of his time; everyday life at Versailles; the artistic and literary production inspired by Louis XIV’s style of governing; Versailles during the XVIII’s century, the French Revolution, and the nineteenth century; the esthetic and political legacy of the Versailles system.

Professor Doina Harsanyi

Tu Th
9:30-10:45 a.m.