This course surveys the social history of England from the later Middle Ages until the Industrial Revolution. Two main themes dominate the history of this long period: the landed elite's successful effort to maintain its hold on power in a changing society and the interplay of continuity and change in the lives of ordinary people.

Students taking the class for three units will read the books listed below and take three examinations, two mid-terms and a final. Students taking the class for four units will also do an additional project, either a term paper or another activity approved by the instructor. An alternative activity might, for example, be the assembly of visual materials to illustrate changes in the role of the aristocracy over the centuries.

Examinations: Mid-terms will be held in class, at the usual hour, on February 26 and April 9. The final will be held on Sunday, May 10 at 7:25 PM. All examinations will be essay tests.

Required readings:

Keith Wrightson, *English Society, 1580-1680*
Lawrence Stone, *The Crisis of the Aristocracy*
Margaret Spufford, *Small Books and Pleasant Histories*
J.A. Sharpe, *Crime in Early Modern England, 1550-1750*
Roy Porter, *English Society in the Eighteenth Century*
Lawrence Stone, *An Open Elite?*

Recommended:
D.M. Palliser, *The Age of Elizabeth*

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<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Lecture topics and reading assignments</th>
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| I: 1/20-1/22 | Introduction  
Social structures  
Reading: Wrightson, 11-118 |
| II: 1/27-1/29 | The facts of life  
The economy  
Reading: Wrightson, 121-221 |
| III: 2/3-2/5 | The enclosure movement  
Aristocratic power  
Reading: Stone, *Crisis*, 1-134 |
The state
The family
Reading: Stone, Crisis, 135-248

V: 2/17-2/19
No class
Education
Reading: Stone, Crisis, 249-357

VI: 2/24-2/26
Religion
Exam I (2/26)
Reading: Spufford, 1-128

VII: 3/3-3/5
Revolution
Popular culture I
Reading: Spufford, 129-261

VIII: 3/10-3/12
Popular culture II
Witchcraft
Reading: Sharpe, 1-93

IX: Spring Recess

X: 3/24-3/26
Crime
Suicide
Reading: Sharpe, 94-188

XI: 3/31-4/2
Popular rebellions
Power
Reading: Porter, 15-158

XII: 4/7-4/9
"The Making of the English Landscape"
Exam II (4/9)
Reading: Porter, 159-268

XIII: 4/14-4/16
Economic growth
Women
Reading: Porter, 269-379

XIV: 4/21-4/23
Urbanization
Cultural change
Reading: Stone, Open Elite, 3-110

XV: 4/28-4/30
The landed elite
Aristocratic culture
Reading: Stone, Open Elite, 111-196

XVI: 5/5-5/7
Madness
Conclusion: Continuity and Change, 1500-1800
Reading: Stone, Open Elite, 199-308

Final examination: May 10, 7:25 PM