

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester I, 1980

History 123

English History: England to 1688

MacDonald

Course Description:

History 123 sprints through English history from the Norman Conquest to the Glorious Revolution. The first half of the course discusses the formation of medieval England: the influence of the invaders on the native peoples, the formation of monarchical and parliamentary institutions, the growth of the church and the diffusion of Catholic Christianity. All of these changes will be viewed in the context of economic and social transformations, particularly the introduction of feudalism and the organization of manorialism. The second half of the course considers the destruction or mutilation of medieval institutions and the gradual emergence of more complex kinds of politics and culture from the wreckage: the construction of the modern state, the revolutionary challenge to monarchical absolutism, the destruction of religious consensus, and the decline in magical beliefs. These changes will also be related to social and economic changes, especially the commercial revolution and the emergence of nascent capitalism. History 123 is the first half of a survey of British history. History 124 treats the ascent to the nineteenth-century zenith and the descent to the twentieth-century nadir, of British power and influence.

Written Requirements:

All students will take two one-hour examinations and a final; students who are taking the course for four units will also be asked to write two short essays (six pages each) keyed to the topics discussed in sections.

Lectures and Sections:

There will be three lectures weekly and an hour-long discussion group meeting. Discussion sections will be problem oriented, designed to stimulate interest in how history is actually written and sharpen the analytical and argumentative skills of individual students.

Required readings:

C. Roberts & D. Roberts, A History of England, Vol. I.
W.L. Warren, King John.
C. Platt, The English Medieval Town.
G.E. Aylmer, The Levellers in the English Revolution.
L.B. Smith Elizabeth Tudor.
L. Stone, The Causes of the English Revolution.

Recommended readings:

F.N. McCoy, Research and Writing in History.
C.S.L. Davies, Peace, Print and Protestantism.