

Department of History
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Semester I 1991

HISTORY 123: ENGLAND TO 1688

Professor: Johann Sommerville

5214 Humanities

Office Hours: 12-00 to 1-00 on Mondays and Wednesdays, and by
 appointment.

Lectures: MWF 11-00; 1111 Humanities.

Teaching Assistant: Genie Brown

4268 Humanities.

This course deals with more than sixteen hundred years of British history, from the coming of the Romans to the Glorious Revolution of 1688. It focusses on the major events and most momentous social changes which shaped the development of the English people.

The first part of the course examines the impact of the successive invasions of the Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans. Topics covered include the evolution of the English church and state during the Middle Ages, the nature of feudalism, the troubled reign of King John, and the effects of the Black Death and other plagues on English life in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The second part of the course starts with the Wars of the Roses and deals with the last phase of the Middle Ages and the beginnings of modern England. Topics discussed will include the dissolution of the monasteries and the destruction of the church's independence, reforms in government under the Tudors, the steep growth of population, and resulting economic stresses. Particular attention will be given to the Wars of the Roses in the later fifteenth century, and to the origins of the English Civil War in the 1640s. The course ends with an analysis of the significance of the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

Required texts: C. Warren Hollister, The Making of England 55 B.C to 1399.

Lacey Baldwin Smith, This Realm of England: 1399 to 1688.

W.L.Warren, King John.

David R. Cook, Lancastrians and Yorkists: the Wars

of the Roses.
Lawrence Stone, The Causes of the English
Revolution.

Required tasks: 3 credit students will (1) attend lectures; (2) take two mid-term examinations and a final examination.

4 credit students will have the same tasks, and in addition will write a term paper. The term paper should be 5-6 pages in length (plus endnotes and a bibliography). Write on one of the following topics: (i) Why did King John encounter such grave problems?; (ii) Why did the Wars of the Roses break out and why did they last so long?; (iii) What were the causes of the English Civil War? The term paper is due on **11/1 (Friday)**. Lateness will be penalized, so make sure to drop the fourth credit if you think you will be unable to finish the paper on time.

Course schedule:

You are responsible for keeping up with the readings and preparing for weekly discussion sections. The books to read for the first part of the course are Hollister's Making of England, Warren's King John, and Cook's Lancastrians and Yorkists; for the second half, Smith's This Realm of England and Stone's Causes of the English Revolution. You will get details of just what to read each week in the discussion sections.

Here is a guide to the topics covered in the lectures:

| Week | | Lectures |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--|
| I | 9/4-6 | Introduction: England, the English, and their history. |
| II | 9/9-13 | Roman and Anglo-Saxon England. |
| III | 9/16-20 | Late Saxon and Norman England. |
| IV | 9/23-27 | From Henry II to Henry III. |
| V | 9/30-10/4 | Edward I to Richard II. |
| VI | 10/7-10 | The Later Middle Ages. |
| EXAM: FRIDAY, 11 OCTOBER | | |
| VII | 10/14-18 | The Wars of the Roses |
| VIII | 10/21-25 | From Yorkists to Tudors |
| IX | 10/28-11/1 | The Reformation |
| X | 11/4-8 | Henry VIII |
| XI | 11/11-11/15 | Mid-Tudor England |
| XII | 11/18-22 | Elizabethans and early Stuarts. |

EXAM: MONDAY, 25 NOVEMBER

THANKSGIVING RECESS: 27 NOVEMBER TO 1 DECEMBER

| | | |
|------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| XIII | 12/2-6 | Civil War and Interregnum. |
| XIV | 12/9-13 | Restoration and Glorious Revolution. |

FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY, 20 DECEMBER, 2-45PM.

Important dates:

Last day to drop course without record getting on transcript:
9/11 (Wednesday)

Last day to add course: 9/13 (Friday)

Last day to drop course: 11/1 (Friday)

Date by which term papers are due: 11/1 (Friday)