

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester I Year 81-2

| <u>COURSE NO.</u> | <u>COURSE TITLE</u>                                | <u>INSTRUCTOR</u> |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| 361               | The Emergence of Modern Britain: England 1485-1660 | MacDonald         |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 361 examines the political and constitutional history of England from the later Middle Ages until the Restoration. The course focuses on the major political events of the period, but it goes beyond merely recounting the deeds of the Yorkist, Tudor, and Stuart monarchs and their opponents. The lectures and readings show that the struggle for political power and influence was shaped by legal and social institutions that were themselves transformed by the actions and ambitions of England's rulers. Among the principal events and themes discussed in the course are aristocratic power and the monarchy in the fifteenth century, the Wars of the Roses, the Tudor dynasty's pacification of the nobility, the impact of the Protestant Reformation on the constitution, the Elizabethan political system, the constitutional and religious opposition to the early Stuarts, the English Revolution of 1640-1660, and the reestablishment of political stability. The changing relationship between Crown and Parliament is the central topic of the course, a theme that embraces most of the other subjects treated in it.

Although a knowledge of basic English history would be very helpful to students taking this course, it is not essential.

LECTURES

There will be hour-long lectures three times a week. All students will attend weekly discussion sections or risk stern reproof.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

All the students in the class will take two hour-long mid-term exams and a two-hour-long final. Students who take the course for four units will be asked to write a term paper, not to exceed ten (10, X) pages in length, on a topic selected in consultation with the instructor. These research papers will be read by the instructor and some other four unit students and discussed in special workshops.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades will be calculated according to the following formulas, insofar as possible. **THREE-UNIT STUDENTS:** discussion sections, 20%; mid-terms, 20% each; final, 40%. **FOUR-UNIT STUDENTS:** discussion sections, 15%; mid-terms, 15% each; final, 35%; term paper project, 20%

REQUIRED READINGS

Russell, Crisis of Parliaments  
Lander, Conflict and Stability in Fifteenth-Century England  
Elton, Reform and Reformation

Two other books on the reign of Elizabeth and on the Revolution, to be announced.