

J.P. Sommerville

361

THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN BRITAIN 1485-1660

Semester II, 2008



This course will explore a decisive period in the making of modern Britain, and of the western world today. Though the social, economic and intellectual aspects of the period will not be neglected, the main focus of the course will be on political and constitutional change. The course will begin with a broad introduction to early-modern Britain. Then we will examine how the turbulent period of the Wars of the Roses was ended, and how the Tudor monarchy broke the independence of the "over-mighty magnates" of late-medieval England.



The Tudors succeeded in introducing far greater unity and centralization than had existed earlier, and this will be the main theme of the first half of the course. Topics discussed will include the Reformation, the so-called "Tudor Revolution in Government," the bitter factional politics of the court of Henry VIII, the Marian Reaction and the "mid-Tudor crisis," and the re-establishment of royal power in the reign of Elizabeth - when an unprecedented flowering of English culture took place, and when English sea-power staved off conquest by Catholic Spain.

The succession of James, King of Scots to the



English throne in 1603, united the Scottish and English monarchies but the new Stuart dynasty was soon faced with grave problems. The second half of the course will examine the ways in which financial, constitutional and religious issues combined to lead to civil war and to the execution of the King and the introduction of a republic in England in 1649. We will also see how the advent of a military despotism and the proliferation of radical ideas led the English to reintroduce monarchy in 1660.

Instructor:

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Teaching Assistant:

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The [Course schedule](#) gives an outline of this course's content, summaries of the lectures, additional relevant information, and links to other internet sites.

This is a **three or four credit** course for undergraduates, and a **three credit** course for graduate students. If you are registered for the wrong number of credits, please visit your [MyUW site](#) and follow the links to update your current course information.

Requirements:

Undergraduates

- attend lectures (TR, 2:30-3:45, 1101 Humanities.)
- do the required course reading.

- attend discussion section.
- and explore the material on this site by clicking the hyperlinks (starting with Course schedule.)

Three credit undergraduates do two midterms (in class on 2/26 and 4/17,) and take the final (07:45, Monday 5/12, place to be announced;) **four credit students** do the same things and also write a term paper (due 3/27 in class.)

Your fourth credit term paper should be double-spaced and about 5-6 pages in length; in addition to the 5-6 pages of text, the paper should also include a bibliography, and references to things you have read, giving your sources, and it should show familiarity with at least two books or articles in addition to the course reading. See this guide on how to cite references in your paper.

The paper should be on either:

- (1) Why did the Reformation happen in England, and what effects did it have on English society and government?
- (2) What problems confronted Elizabeth I in the course of her long reign, and how successful was she in overcoming them?
- (3) What were the causes and consequences of the mid-seventeenth century civil wars?
or
- (4) another topic, by arrangement by myself or Michael Kelly.

Graduate students:

Do 2 term papers (12-15 pp. including notes and bibliography; due 3/13 and 5/8.) Topics by arrangement.

Reading

Required Texts:

(1) Susan Brigden, *New Worlds, Lost Worlds: the Rule of the Tudors 1485-1603*; Paper; Penguin; 2002 (ISBN-10: 0142001252 or ISBN-13: 978-0142001257.) This is the main textbook for the first half of the course.

(2) Mark Kishlansky, *A Monarchy Transformed: Britain 1603-1714*; Paper; Penguin; 1997 (ISBN-10: 0140148272 or ISBN-13: 978-0140148275 .) Read the first nine chapters. this is the main textbook for the second half of the course.

NOTE: you will be given detailed reading assignments in discussion section.

Also read the material and follow the links in the pages on this site, beginning with the [Course schedule](#). Those who are interested, and people writing term papers, could also consult the much larger book list [here](#) - - and this [search engine](#) . A good collection of biographies is available in the [Oxford Dictionary of National Biography](#) .

How much are the exams (etc.) worth:

Undergraduates:

3 credit: discussion section participation and attendance: 20%; each midterm 20%; final 40%.

4 credit: discussion section participation and attendance: 20%; each midterm 15%; final 30%; term paper 20%.

Graduates: 50% for each paper.

A note on term papers and the Internet:

The term paper should cite at least two sources in addition to the course reading. This [booklist](#) provides many sources, and others are listed in the footnotes and endnotes of the course reading. [Addall](#) is a good link for buying books cheaply. Be careful about using sources from the Internet, as they are not always reliable. As a general rule, use printed, published sources (though it's fine to use them in pdf versions available on the Internet.)

A good guide on questions of style, grammar etc. is available at [The Wisconsin Handbook](#).

Finally, be aware that you should be careful to give proper citations for things you take from the Internet or from printed books and articles; take a look at [this information on academic misconduct](#).

[Hints on how to write [a good paper](#)]

SCHEDULE

Introduction: (01/22-01/24)

- (i) [Basic factors](#)
- (ii) [Economy and society](#)
- (iii) [Government](#)

The foundation of Tudor England: (01/29-01/31)

- (i) The Wars of the Roses and their aftermath
- (ii) Henry VII

Henry VIII and Wolsey (02/05)

Henry VIII and the Reformation: (02/07-02/12)

- (i) from above
- (ii) from below
- (iii) the monasteries

Henry VIII - government and society (02/14)

Edward VI and: (02/19-02/21)

- (i) Somerset
- (ii) Northumberland

FIRST MIDTERM, IN CLASS 02/26 (TUESDAY)

Mary (02/28)

The reign of Elizabeth (03/04-03/06)

Elizabethan: (03/11-03/13)

- (i) Government
- (ii) Parliaments
- (iii) Puritanism
- (iv) Catholicism

SPRING BREAK: 03/15-23

Elizabethan exploration and foreign policy (03/25)

TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS, 03/27

Stuart England 1603-1642 (03/27)

Jacobean England: (04/01-04/03)

(i) the age of Salisbury

(ii) the rule of the Howards

James and Buckingham (04/08)

Charles I and the crisis of 1625-9 (04/10)

Charles I: the personal rule 1629-40 (04/15)

SECOND MIDTERM, IN CLASS 04/17

The Civil War and its origins 1640-2 (04/22)

The first Civil War, 1642-6 (04/24)

The English Revolution, 1647-9 (04/29)

The Commonwealth and Protectorate 1649-58 (05/01)

The end of the Protectorate and the Restoration, 1658-60
(05/06)

Science, thought, religion and culture in mid-seventeenth
century England (05/08)

FINAL EXAM, 05/12 (MONDAY), 7:45AM; PLACE TO BE
ANNOUNCED

