

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester I Year 81-2

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
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 representative 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 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 covers England and Ireland from 1688 to the present.

LECTURES

There will be three lectures weekly. All students will also be required to attend one discussion section weekly.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

All students will take two hour-long mid-term exams and a two-hour-long final. Students who take the course for four units will write two short essays, not to exceed five (5, V) pages in length, on topics closely related to historical problems raised by the lectures. The purpose of these essays is to sharpen analytical and expository skills; they are not meant to be research papers, and little or no outside reading will be necessary to write them.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades will be calculated according to the following formulae, insofar as possible. THREE-UNIT STUDENTS: discussion sections, 20%; mid-term exams, 20% each; final exam, 40%. FOUR-UNIT STUDENTS: discussion sections, 15%; mid-term exams, 15% each; final exam, 35%; papers, 20%.

REQUIRED READINGS

Hollister, Making of England
Smith, This Realm of England
Warren, King John
Hilton, 'The Decline of Serfdom' (pamphlet)
Smith, Elizabeth Tudor
Stone, The Crisis of the Aristocracy