

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester SUM Year 78

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
123	History of 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 which ends at last in the collapse of imperialism and the problems of an emphysemic economy: History 124 treats the ascent to the nineteenth-century zenith and the descent to the twentieth-century nadir.

LECTURES

Daily during the summer session. They will be supplemented by discussion sections and visual treats of various kinds.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

One mid-term and a final examination. Four-credit students will negotiate extra writing and discussion chores with the instructor.

GRADING SYSTEM

A-F. 15% for participation in discussions; 15% for the mid-term; 60% for the final.

REQUIRED READINGS

Christopher Brook, From Alfred to Henry III  
George Holmes, The Later Middle Ages  
R. H. Hilton, The Decline of Serfdom (pamphlet)  
Conrad Russell, The Crisis of Parliaments  
Lacey Baldwin Smith, Elizabeth Tudor  
Christopher Hill, God's Englishman