

J.P.Sommerville

**History 361: THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN BRITAIN 1485-1660
Semester I, 2005**

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

THIS IS A FOUR CREDIT COURSE FOR UNDERGRADUATES, AND A THREE CREDIT COURSE FOR GRADUATES. THERE IS AN HONORS OPTION FOR UNDERGRADUATES.

UNDERGRADUATES WILL

WRITE A TERM PAPER (5-6 PAGES, DOUBLE-SPACED, 10-12 pt; 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 to writing on how to cite references in your paper; <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/Documentation.html>) THE TERM PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS, NOVEMBER 4 2005.

DO TWO MIDTERMS (IN CLASS ON 10/10 (MONDAY) AND 11/18 (FRIDAY)) AND A FINAL (5:05-7:05 P.M. ON TUESDAY 12/20; PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

ATTEND CLASS (1641 HUMANITIES, MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 1:20-2:10.)

STUDENTS SHOULD ALSO EXPLORE THE MATERIAL ON THIS WEB SITE BY FOLLOWING THE HYPERLINKS IN THE COURSE SCHEDULE BELOW.

HONORS STUDENTS

DO AN ADDITIONAL TERM PAPER, DUE IN CLASS ON 12/14 (WEDNESDAY.)

GRADUATES

ATTEND CLASS AND DO TWO PAPERS OF 10-15 PAGES (DUE 11/04 AND 12/14.)

READING:

Susan Brigden, *New Worlds, Lost Worlds. The Rule of the Tudors 1485-1603*, Penguin 2000
Mark Kishlansky, *A Monarchy Transformed. Britain 1603-1714*, Penguin 1996 (through Chapter 9.)

For the first midterm read chapters 1-6 of Brigden.

For the second midterm, read the rest of Brigden and chapters 1-5 of Kishlansky.

For the final read chapters 6-9 of Kishlansky.

TOPICS FOR TERM PAPERS:

write on one of these three topics, or arrange another by discussing it with me:

- (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?

[Hints on how to write a good paper: <http://history.wisc.edu/sommerville/Administrative/essays.htm>]

SCHEDULE

Introduction: (09/02-09/07)

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

The foundation of Tudor England: (09/09-09/14)

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

Henry VIII and Wolsey (09/16-09/19)

Henry VIII and the Reformation: (09/21-26)

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

Henry VIII - government and society (09/28)

Edward VI and: (09/30-10/05)

- (i) Somerset
- (ii) Northumberland

Mary (10/05-10/07)

FIRST MIDTERM, IN CLASS 10/10 (MONDAY)

The reign of Elizabeth (10/12-10/14)

Elizabethan: (10/17-10/24)

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

Elizabethan exploration and foreign policy (10/26)

Stuart England 1603-1642 (10/28-10/31)

Jacobean England: (10/31-11/2)

- (i) the age of Salisbury
- (ii) the rule of the Howards

TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS, 11/04

James and Buckingham (11/04)

Charles I and the crisis of 1625-9 (11/07-11/11)

Charles I: the personal rule 1629-40 (11/14)

The Civil War and its origins 1640-2 (11/16)

SECOND MIDTERM, IN CLASS 11/18 (FRIDAY)

THANKSGIVING RECESS, 11/23-11/27

The first Civil War, 1642-6 (11/28-11/30)

The English Revolution, 1647-9 (12/2-12/5)

The Commonwealth and Protectorate 1649-58 (12/7-9)

The end of the Protectorate and the Restoration, 1658-60 (12/12)

Science, thought, religion and culture in mid-seventeenth century England (12/14)

FINAL EXAM, 5:05-7:05 P.M., 12/20 (TUESDAY;) PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED.