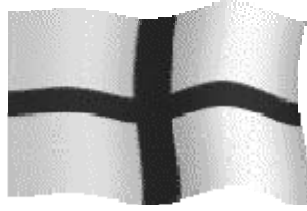


HISTORY 123: ENGLAND TO 1688



FALL 2018

Fall 2018: NOTE: THIS IS A 3 CREDIT COURSE: YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH OR WITHOUT HONORS

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00-12:15, 1217 Mosse Humanities.

email: jsommerv@wisc.edu

This course deals with more than sixteen hundred years of British history, from the coming of the Romans to the Glorious Revolution of 1688. It focuses on the major events and most momentous social changes which shaped the development of the English people. The objectives of the course are (i) to investigate how a small island off the coast of Continental Europe came to be a world power which exercised an incalculable influence on history and culture around the globe; (ii) to foster an understanding of societies and ideas very different from our own; and (iii) to enhance critical and analytical thinking, and communication skills.

The first part of the course examines the impact of the successive invasions of the Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans. Topics covered include the evolution of the English church and state during the Middle Ages, the nature of feudalism, the troubled reign of King John, and the effects of the Black Death and other plagues on English life in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The second part of the course starts with the Wars of the Roses and deals with the last phase of the Middle Ages and the beginnings of modern England. Topics discussed will include the dissolution of the monasteries and the destruction of the church's independence, reforms in government under the Tudors, the steep growth of population, and resulting economic stresses. Particular attention will be given to the reign of Elizabeth I, and to the origins of the English Civil War in the 1640s. The course ends with an analysis of the significance of the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

[Weekly readings](#)

[Lecture outlines](#)

[Lecture Slides](#)

Instructor: Johann Sommerville
Email: jsommerv@wisc.edu
Office: 4127 Mosse Humanities
Mailbox: 4001
Office Hours: Tuesdays at 12:20-1:20, and by appointment.

Required reading:

Read the documents in the [Course schedule](#).

Recommended reading:

An excellent collection of free online biographies of British people from the earliest times to the present day is [The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography](#); click on the link and log on with your NetID. Use this resource to get information about any British historical figures that you find interesting.

Here are two useful textbooks which are recommended but not required:

+ C. Warren Hollister, *The Making of England 55 B.C. to 1399*.

+ Lacey Baldwin Smith, *This Realm of England: 1399 to 1688*.

Required tasks:

This is a 3 credit course; you can take it with or without Honors.

Non-Honors students will:

+ attend lectures

+ take two mid-term [exams](#) in class (10/9 and 11/15) and a final [exam](#) (12:25PM on Wednesday 12/19; place to be announced.)

+ do the required readings

Honors students will have the same tasks, and in addition will write a [term paper](#). The term paper (due in class by 12/11) should be in 10-12 point font, 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 [The Writing Center](#) site on how to cite references in your paper.

You can either arrange a topic with me, or write on one of the following topics:

- (i) To what extent were King John's problems of his own making, and to what extent did he inherit them from his predecessors?
- (ii) What were the most serious problems which faced Elizabeth I, and how successful was she in overcoming them?

If you cannot complete the Honors paper by 12/11, make sure to drop the Honors credit in good time! To do this please visit your [MyUW site](#) and follow the links to update your current course information.

How much are the exams (etc.) worth?

3 credit non-honors students: each midterm 25%; final 50%

3 credit honors students: term paper 25%; each mid-term 18.75%; final 37.5%

Important information:

This course meets as a group (or with dedicated online time) for 2 75 minute sessions per week and carries the expectation that you will spend an average of 2 hours outside of class for each class period. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of 6 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for quizzes and exams for this class.

Quick Reference

1. Introduction: England, the English, and their history
2. Roman and Anglo-Saxon England
3. The end of Anglo-Saxon England and the Normans
4. Henry II and his sons
5. Henry III, Edward I, and Edward II

EXAM: IN CLASS, OCT. 9.

6. Edward III to Henry IV
7. Wars of the Roses
8. Yorkists to Tudors
9. Henry VIII and the Reformation
10. Mid-Tudor England and Elizabeth I

EXAM: IN CLASS NOV. 15.

THANKSGIVING RECESS NOV. 22-25

11. James I
12. Charles I and the Civil War
13. Civil War, Interregnum, Restoration, and Glorious Revolution

HONORS PAPERS DUE: DECEMBER 11

FINAL EXAM: 12:25PM ON WEDNESDAY 12/19; PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

