

# HISTORY 123: ENGLAND TO 1688



**FALL SEMESTER, 2017**

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**NOTE: THIS IS A 4 CREDIT COURSE: YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH OR WITHOUT HONORS**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00-5:15, 1121 Mosse Humanities.**

email: [jsommerv@wisc.edu](mailto: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 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.

<a href="#"><u>Weekly readings</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Lecture outlines</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Lecture Slides</u></a>

**Instructor:** Johann Sommerville  
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Office Hours: Thursdays at 2-3:45, and by appointment.

**Teaching Assistant:** Alice Main

Office etc.: TBA

**Required texts:**

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

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

In addition, some documents will be assigned each week to read in preparation for the weekly discussion session. For details, click [Course schedule](#).

**Required tasks:**

This is a 4 credit course; you can take it with or without Honors.

Non-Honors students will:

+ attend lectures and discussion sections

+ take two mid-term [exams](#) in class (10/12 and 11/14) and a final [exam](#) (7:45AM on Saturday 12/16; place to be announced.)

+ explore the lecture outlines by clicking [here](#).

Honors students will have the same tasks, and in addition will write a [term paper](#). The term paper (due in class by 12/12) 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 12/12, 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.

You are responsible for keeping up with the readings. Click on [Course schedule](#) to link to details of each week's reading; the TA will give you detailed information on the readings..

**How much are the exams (etc.) worth?**

4 credit non-honors students: discussion section 20%; each midterm 20%; final 40%

4 credit honors students: discussion section 20%; term paper 20%; each mid-term 15%; final 30%

*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. 12.**

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. 14.**

11. James I

**THANKSGIVING RECESS: NOV. 23-26.**

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

**HONORS PAPERS DUE: DEC. 12**

**FINAL EXAM: 7:45AM ON SATURSDAY 12/16; PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED.**