

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
123	English History: England to 1688	MacDonald

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 123 is the first half of a two-semester sequence surveying the history of England and the British Empire. The course extends from the period of Roman occupation during the first century A.D. until the Revolution of 1688. The first objective of the course will be to assess the impact of the successive waves of foreign invaders on existing institutions and patterns of life. A second major goal will be to trace the formation of a distinctively English culture between the eleventh and the seventeenth centuries. Specifically, attention will be focused on (1) the growth of monarchical institutions; (2) the evolution of parliament; (3) the development of common law; and (4) the history of the English language, of literature and art. Major events such as the Norman invasion, Magna Carta, the Peasants' Revolt, Henry VIII's break with the Church of Rome, the Elizabethan renaissance, and the revolutions of the seventeenth century will be highlighted. A third objective of the course will be to investigate the peculiar features of medieval economic and social life and the transformation from feudalism to capitalism. Such topics as the bonds of feudal society and the decline of serfdom, the modernization of traditional agriculture, the expansion of trade, and the changes in the size and distribution of the population will be examined closely. A fourth goal of the course will be to explain the nature and importance of medieval Catholicism, to assess the impact of the Reformation on English politics and society, and to show the significance of religion and rival magical beliefs in the lives and minds of ordinary people.

LECTURES

Lectures three days per week, supplemented by weekly discussion meetings and/or audio-visual presentations, including films, sound filmstrips, slides, and music.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

The students themselves will decide during the first week of class whether to have one 50-minute test plus a final exam, or two 50-minute tests plus a final exam.

GRADING SYSTEM

If the students choose to have one 50-minute test plus a final exam, the final grade will be determined on the following basis: performance in discussion section-15%; 50-minute test-35%; final exam-50%. If, on the other hand, students decide to have two 50-minute tests plus the final exam, a number of grading options will be offered.

REQUIRED READINGS

J. R. Lander & Charles Gray, Harbrace History of England, I & II
 Bede, A History of the English Church and People
 Sidney Painter, The Reign of King John
 H. S. Bennett, Life on the English Manor
 L. B. Smith, Henry VII: The Mask of Royalty
 Lawrence Stone, The Causes of the English Revolution
 R. H. Hilton, The Decline of Serfdom (Pamphlet)