

Department of History
University of Wisconsin
Semester 1, 1988-9

Prof. Jonann Sommerville
5214 Humanities
Office Hours: Wednesday 12-1, and by appointment

HISTORY 123: ENGLAND TO 1688

This course introduces students to more than sixteen hundred years of British history - from the coming of the Romans to the Glorious Revolution of 1688. It focusses on the major events and most momentous social changes which shaped the development of the English people.

The first half of the course examines the impact of the successive invasions of the Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans. Topics discussed will include the evolution in the Middle Ages of the English state and church, the nature of feudalism, and the consequences of plague on English life in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The second half of the course starts with the Wars of Roses and covers 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 origins of the English Civil War in the 1640s. The course will end with a discussion of the significance of the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

Required texts:

C. Warren Hollister, The making of England
David R. Cook, Lancastrians and Yorkists: the Wars of the Roses
C.S.L. Davies, Peace, Print, and Protestantism
Christopher Hill, The Century of Revolution
Lawrence Stone, The Causes of the English Revolution

Required tasks:

All students will be required to attend lectures and section meetings, and to take two mid-term examinations and a final examination. Students wishing to take the class for four units will also write a term paper or two short essays.

Course schedule

You are responsible for keeping up with the readings and preparing for discussion sections. The pace of the lectures and the topics for weekly discussions may vary somewhat from this schedule, which is intended only as a guideline, but you will find the course easier and more rewarding if you adhere to the weekly reading assignments given below.

Week		Lectures and reading assignments
I	9/7-9	Introduction. The Roman invasions Hollister, chs.1-2
II	9/12-16	Roman and Anglo-Saxon England Hollister, chs.3-5
III	9/19-23	Late Saxon and Norman England Hollister, chs.6-7
IV	9/26-30	From Henry II to Henry III Hollister, chs.8-11
V	10/3-7	Edward I to Richard II Hollister, ch.12; Davies, chs.1-2
VI	10/10-14	The Later Middle Ages Cook
EXAM 10/14		
VII	10/17-21	The Wars of the Roses Davies, chs.3-4
VIII	10/24-28	From Yorkists to Tudors Davies, chs.5-6
IX	10/31-11/4	The Reformation Davies, chs.7-8
X	11/7-11/11	Henry VIII Davies, ch.9
XI	11/14-11/18	Mid-Tudor England Stone, pp.1-116
XII	11/21-23	The Elizabethan Age Stone, from p.116; Hill pt.1
EXAM 11/23		
THANKSGIVING RECESS 11/24-27		
XIII	11/28-12/2	Early Stuart England Hill, pt.2
XIV	12/5-12/9	The English Civil War Hill, pt.3
XV	12/12-14	Restoration to Glorious Revolution Hill, pt.4

Important dates

Last day to drop course without permanent record: 9/14
Last day to add course or fourth unit: 9/16
Last day to drop course or fourth unit: 11/4