

Department of History  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Semester I 1990

**HISTORY 123: ENGLAND TO 1688**

Professor: Johann Sommerville

5214 Humanities

Office Hours: 11-15 to 12-30 on Mondays, and by appointment.

Lectures: 9-55 MWF, 22 Commerce.

Teaching Assistant: Mary Carlson

4268 Humanities

Office Hours: 12 to 1 Tuesdays; 1-2 Wednesdays, and by appointment.

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 focusses on the major events and most momentous social changes which shaped the development of the English people.

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 origins of the English Civil War in the 1640s. The course ends with an analysis of the significance of the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

Required texts: C. Warren Hollister, The Making of England 55 B.C to 1399.

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

W.L. Warren, King John.

Lawrence Stone, The Causes of the English Revolution.

Required tasks: 3 credit students will (1) attend lectures; (2) take two mid-term examinations and a final examination.

4 credit students will have the same tasks, and in addition will write a term paper (approx 12-15 pages).

Course schedule:

You are responsible for keeping up with the readings and preparing for weekly discussion sections. The books to read for the first part of the course are Hollister's Making of England, and Warren's King John; for the second half, Smith's This Realm of England and Stone's Causes of the English Revolution. You will get details of just what to read each week in the discussion sections.

Here is a guide to the topics covered in the lectures:

Week		Lectures
I	9/5-7	Introduction: England, the English, and their history.
II	9/10-14	Roman and Anglo-Saxon England.
III	9/17-21	Late Saxon and Norman England.
IV	9/24-28	From Henry II to Henry III.
V	10/1-5	Edward I to Richard II.
VI	10/8-10	The Later Middle Ages.
<b>EXAM: FRIDAY, 12 OCTOBER</b>		
VII	10/15-19	The Wars of the Roses
VIII	10/22-26	From Yorkists to Tudors
IX	10/29-11/2	The Reformation
X	11/5-9	Henry VIII
XI	11/12-11/16	Mid-Tudor England
<b>EXAM: MONDAY, 19 NOVEMBER</b>		
<b>THANKSGIVING RECESS: 21-25 NOVEMBER</b>		
XII	11/26-30	Elizabethans and early Stuarts.
XIII	12/3-7	Civil War and Interregnum.
XIV	12/10-14	Restoration and Glorious Revolution.

**FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, 20 DECEMBER, 12-25PM.**

Important dates:

Last day to drop course without record getting on transcript:  
9/12 (Wednesday)

Last day to add course or fourth credit: 9/14 (Friday)

Last day to drop course or fourth credit: 11/2 (Friday)

Date by which term papers are due: 11/2 (Friday)