

HISTORY 123: ENGLAND TO 1688
FALL SEMESTER, 2005



Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11-11:50, 1131 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 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.

Teaching Assistant:

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Office: Humanities 4266; Office Hours: Fridays 12:15-2:15

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:

3 credit students will: attend lectures;
attend and participate in discussion section;
take two mid-term exams (10/12 and 11/21) and a final exam (take-home, due noon on 12/18; see the top of this page.)
explore the lecture outlines by clicking [here](#).

4 credit students will have the same tasks, and in addition will write a term paper. The term paper 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 your T.A., 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 fourth credit paper by November 4, make sure to drop the fourth credit in good time! To do this please visit your [MyUW site](#) and follow the links to update your current course information.

Honors students: as 3 or 4 credit students, but you will write an additional paper (due 12/14.)

You are responsible for keeping up with the readings and preparing for weekly discussion sections. Click on [Course schedule](#) to link to details of each week's reading; you will also be given details of these in discussion section.

How much are the exams (etc.) worth?

3 credit students: classroom participation 20%; each mid-term 20%; final 40%

4 credit students: classroom participation 20%; term paper 25%; each mid-term 13.75%; final 27.5%

3 credit honors students: classroom participation 20%; term paper 25%; each mid-term 13.75%; final 27.5%

4 credit honors students: classroom participation 20%; each term paper 15%; each mid-term 12.5%; final 25%

Quick Reference

1. Introduction: England, the English, and their history (09/02-07)
2. Roman and Anglo-Saxon England (09/09-16)
3. The end of Anglo-Saxon England and the Normans (09/19-23)
4. Henry II and his sons (09/26-09/30)
5. Henry III, Edward I, and Edward II (10/03-10/10)

EXAM: IN CLASS, 12 OCT.

6. Edward III to Henry IV (10/14-21)
7. Wars of the Roses (10/24-28)
8. Yorkists to Tudors (10/31-11/04)

TERM PAPERS DUE 11/04.

9. Henry VIII and the Reformation (11/07-11)
10. Mid-Tudor England and Elizabeth I (11/14-18)

EXAM: IN CLASS 21 NOV.

THANKSGIVING RECESS: 23-27 NOV.

11. Elizabeth I, James I, and Charles I (11/28-12/02)
12. Charles I and the Civil War (12/05-12/09)
13. Civil War, Interregnum, Restoration, and Glorious Revolution (12/12-14)

FINAL EXAM: TAKE-HOME, DUE NOON ON 12/18 (SEE THE TOP OF THIS PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.)

Weekly Readings -

<http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/123/123courseschedule.htm>

Outline of, and guide to, History 123 lectures -

England and English history: The Basics
The course of English history before 1688 in outline
Medieval Outline
Tudor-Stuart Outline

Prehistoric Britain
Roman Britain
The Decline of Roman Britain

Anglo Saxon England
Anglo-Saxon England II
Anglo-Saxon England - the spread of Christianity

Anglo-Saxon England IV

Anglo-Saxon England V - Wessex and the Vikings
Anglo-Saxon England VI - Alfred the Great & his successors
Anglo-Saxon England VII - The Later Anglo-Saxon years
Anglo-Saxon England VIII Cnut to Harold (King Canute and the waves)

The Norman Conquest (The Battle of Hastings)
(Feudalism)
Norman government and administration
The Norman Church
Stephen, Matilda & Civil War
Henry II
Henry II and Common Law

Richard I
The Twelfth Century Renaissance

King John
The Crisis of John's reign
Magna Carta
The accession of Henry III
Henry III's personal rule
Henry III and rebellion

Medieval English society
The Medieval English Church
Medieval English government

Edward I
The wars of Edward I
Edward I and Parliament
Edward II
The Fall of Edward II

Edward III at war
Edward III and England
The Black Death
The Peasants' Revolt
Richard II

The Deposition of Richard II
Henry IV
Henry V
Lollardy
The End of the Hundred Years' War

Henry VI and the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses
The Wars of the Roses II - 1460 - 1461
The Wars of the Roses III - Edward IV to Richard III
The End of the Wars of the Roses
The Causes of the Wars of the Roses

Henry VII
The domestic and foreign policy of Henry VII
The accession of Henry VIII
Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey
England in 1529

The Henrician Reformation I
The Henrician Reformation II
Administrative and social reform
The last years of Henry and the accession of Edward VI
Edward and Somerset

Edward VI
Edward and the Fall of Northumberland
Queen Mary
The Mid Tudor Crisis
The Government of Elizabeth I

Elizabeth and her parliaments
Elizabeth I's foreign policy
Elizabeth's foreign policy (2)
England and Scotland in the reign of Elizabeth
Elizabeth and Ireland

The reign of Elizabeth 1558-1570
The reign of Elizabeth 1571- 1585
The reign of Elizabeth 1586 - 1603
Elizabethan trade and exploration
James I The Gunpowder Plot

The government of James I
James I & Buckingham
Charles I & Buckingham
The Crisis of 1626
The La Rochelle Expedition

The Petition of Right
The Death of Buckingham
The Personal Rule of Charles I
Charles isolated
The outbreak of Civil War

The first year of War
The end of Charles I
The rule of the Rump
Cromwell's Protectorate
The Collapse of the Protectorate

The Restoration

James II and the Glorious Revolution