

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester II Year 1979

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
572 - C C L	Criminals and Deviants in England, 1500-1800	Mr. MacDonald

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the relationship between crime and the social order in England before the Industrial Revolution. Four major kinds of criminal activity will be considered: popular rebellion, vagrancy, crimes against property and "social" offenses, such as sexual immorality and suicide. We shall read contemporary literature about criminals and deviants and compare the preoccupations of its ruling-class authors with the realities uncovered by recent historical research. Our concern will be with the changing styles and rates of deviant behavior, and with the way in which prevailing social values were reflected in the enforcement of the criminal law. Previous course work in English history is not required, but it will be necessary that students familiarize themselves with the trajectory of events between 1500 and 1800.

LECTURES

The course is a discussion class. There will be no lectures, and every student will participate actively in the class discussions.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Students will be asked to write three short take-home exams, essays about the course readings which will encourage further thought and debate about the important problems posed in the course. No other written work or examinations will be required.

GRADING SYSTEM

Students will be graded both on their class participation and on their essays. Roughly 40% of one's grade will reflect the instructor's judgment of the quality and enthusiasm of one's contribution to discussions.

REQUIRED READINGS

An extensive list of articles has been compiled and placed on reserve, and the required readings will be drawn from that list and from several texts on sale in the bookstore. We will read all of J. S. Cockburn's Crime in England, 1550-1800, which has been recommended for purchase rather than required. Its price is criminal. A reserve list may be obtained from the instructor.