

HISTORY [3400:] 338  
ENGLAND TO 1688  
Fall semester 2009

*Time and location:* MWF 12:05-12:55, Arts and Sciences, room 134

*Instructor:* Michael Graham

206C Arts and Sciences

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*Office Hours:* 11-noon MWF or by appointment

*Description:*

This course will trace the course of English (and, to a lesser extent, British) history from Roman times until the late seventeenth century. Taking a primarily narrative approach, we will examine the migrations which shaped the population of the British Isles, the formation of the Anglo-Saxon monarchies, the Norman Conquest and the role played by feudalism in the development of the kingdom of England, relations between England and its neighbors, particularly France, Scotland and Ireland, the crisis which gripped the monarchy in the fifteenth century and the Tudor dynasty which emerged in its aftermath, the Reformation, the Elizabethan age, and finally the religious and political conflicts which rocked Britain in the seventeenth century. We will study and analyze this history through lectures, readings (including short primary source readings), discussion and the viewing of one semi-historical film.

*Course objectives:*

- to enhance our knowledge of English history
- to develop and hone skills in critical thought and analysis
- to develop and hone skills in written and oral communication

*Required Texts:*

- Hollister, Stacey and Stacey, *The Making of England* (referred to in syllabus as HSS)
- Lacey Baldwin Smith, *This Realm of England*
- Judith Bennett, *A Medieval Life: Cecilia Penifader of Brigstock, c. 1295-1344*
- William Shakespeare, *The Tragedie of Richard the Third: Applause First Folio Editions*
- Primary source readings which will periodically be posted on Springboard (SB)

Course Requirements:

- two midterm examinations, October 2nd and November 9th (each worth 15% of final grade)
- final examination, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at noon (25% of final grade)
- one 5-6 page paper, due November 20 (15% of final grade).
- one class presentation/biography source project (15% of final grade). See end of syllabus.
- regular attendance and participation in discussion (15% of final grade)

NOTES:

1) History department policy does not allow withdrawals from courses after the tenth week of the semester.

2) I will not automatically allow you to take a make-up if you miss an exam. If, for reasons beyond your control, you must miss an exam, contact me in advance. If you are taken violently ill on the day of an exam, or your car breaks down on your way to school, call or e-mail me ASAP. I have an answering machine at home, and voice mail in my office. If you do not make an effort to contact me, you will not be allowed to take a make-up.

3) I take academic honesty very seriously. Any student determined to have cheated on an exam or written assignment (plagiarism is cheating) will, *as a minimum punishment*, receive no credit for the exam or written assignment, and will in addition have the number of points that exam or written assignment was worth deducted from their final point total in the course. I reserve the right to impose more severe punishments if I deem it appropriate.

4) The use of a 100-point system in this course allows you (and me) to keep track of your own grades easily. Each item is graded on a scale equal to the percentage it comprises of your final grade. For example, each mid-term, being worth 15 percent of your final grade, is graded on a 15-point scale. This does not make it any harder to get an "A" or a "B", or any particular grade, in this class. It just makes it easier for you to figure out where you stand in relation to those benchmarks.

5) As a 300-level class, this course has a significant, but certainly not excessive, reading load. If you anticipate that it will be prohibitively difficult for you to complete the readings within the assigned time frames, I would encourage you to select a different course.

6) Since written communication is one of the skills this course aims to develop, I expect your papers to be composed in clear academic English, reflecting the conventions of grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. Essays which fail to respect those conventions will receive lower grades. You will have the opportunity to review and critique the writings of your classmates, and I expect that you will take this responsibility seriously.

What follows is a schedule for this course. Note that readings should be completed *before class* on the date indicated..

#### Week 1

24 Aug: Introduction to course and subject

26 Aug: The Geography of Britain (HSS, 1-8)

28 Aug: Roman Britain (HSS, 9-38)

#### Week 2

31 Aug: Britons, Celts, Anglo-Saxons and Danes (HSS, 39-118)

2 Sept: The Norman Conquest (HSS, 118-153)

4 Sept: Discussion - Norman Conquest (SB reading)

#### Week 3

7 Sept: NO CLASS (LABOR DAY)

9 Sept: Sorting out England, Scotland and Normandy (HSS, 154-178)

11 Sept: Discussion - "Feudal" England (SB reading)

#### Week 4

14 Sept: Restoring order: Henry II, the Church and the Law (HSS, 179-193)

16 Sept: The Angevin Empire (HSS, 193-206)

18 Sept: NO CLASS

Week 5

- 21 Sept: King John and Magna Carta (HSS, 206-256)
- 23 Sept: Henry III and the Birth of Parliament (HSS, 257-285)
- 25 Sept: Discussion - Magna Carta (SB reading)

Week 6

- 28 Sept: Edward I, Hammer of the Scots and Welsh (HSS, 286-300)
- 30 Sept: Catch up/review
- 2 Oct: FIRST MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Week 7

- 5 Oct: Everyday Life in Medieval England (Bennett, *A Medieval Life*, 1-86)
- 7 Oct: The Calamitous Fourteenth Century (Bennett, *A Medieval Life*, 87-138)
- 9 Oct: Discussion - *A Medieval Life: Cecilia Penifader of Brigstock*

Week 8

- 12 Oct: The Rights and Wrongs of Deposition (HSS, 301-320)
- 14 Oct: The Hundred Years' War (HSS, 321-334)
- 16 Oct: The Church in the Late Middle Ages (HSS, 335-360)

Week 9

- 19 Oct: Henry VI and the Wars of the Roses (Smith, 1-70)
- 21 Oct: Richard III and Henry VII (Smith, 71-88)
- 23 Oct: Discussion - Was Richard III Really All That Evil? (SB reading)

Week 10

- 26 Oct: The Foundation of the Tudor Dynasty (Smith, 89-109)
- 28 Oct: Film - *Richard III* (Read first three acts)
- 30 Oct: Film - *Richard III* (cont.) (Read acts four and five)

Week 11

- 2 Nov: Henry VIII and the Pope (Smith, 110-145)
- 4 Nov: The English Reformation (Smith, 147-167)
- 6 Nov: The "Little Tudors"

Week 12

- 9 Nov: SECOND MIDTERM EXAMINATION
- 11 Nov: Elizabeth and Spain (Smith, 168-210)
- 13 Nov: Elizabethan Twilight (Smith, 211-239)

Week 13

- 16 Nov: James VI and I and the Union of Crowns (Smith, 241-267)
- 18 Nov: Charles I and Parliament (Smith, 268-291)
- 20 Nov: The Wars of the Three Kingdoms (Smith, 292-315) RICHARD III PAPER DUE

Week 14

23 Nov: The Restoration (Smith, 317-339)

25 Nov: The Birth of Modern Politics (SB reading)

27 Nov: NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

Week 15

30 Nov: The Glorious Revolution (Smith, 340-360)

2 Dec: Wrap-Up and Review

4 Dec: Makeup day (if necessary)

Final exam: Monday, 7 December, noon

Class presentation/biography source project:

Early in the semester, you will be given the opportunity to draw a name out of a hat. This will be the name of a person of some importance to the history of the British Isles before 1688. There will also be a date included with the name, which will be the date on which you are expected to make a short (five minute) presentation on this person. Once you have the name of the person, your first step should be to look them up in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (ODNB), a very comprehensive scholarly electronic resource available through Bierce Library. The ODNB is far better than Wikipedia. If you rely on the latter, you will have one of your ears cut off (well, maybe not really, but use the ODNB). Based on that resource, prepare your presentation with the aim of letting your classmates know who this person was and why they matter. Then, within a week of your presentation, turn in a short (1-2 pp.) essay distilling the essentials of your presentation, and attach to it a copy of at least one page from a *primary* source which mentions your person. Be careful to note the distinction between primary and secondary sources. This extract must be from a primary source. This assignment is worth 15% of your final grade, and that will be divided evenly in thirds between 1) the oral presentation, 2) the short essay and 3) the primary source (this last is pretty much all-or-nothing: either you have it or you don't).