HISTORY 5360/6360
Medieval British History

Instructor: Joseph Kicklighter
311 Thach Hall
(334) 844-6648
Office hours: TTh, 10:00–11:30

Textbooks: W. Hollister et al., The Making of England to 1399, vol. 1, 8th ed.
Lacey B. Smith, This Realm of England 1399–1688, vol.2, 8th ed


Justification for Graduate Credit:
The content of this course develops critical and analytical skills of students including their application of the relevant literature; it has rigorous standards for student evaluation, and the course instructor is a member of the graduate faculty.

Course Objectives:
This advanced course in the history of England surveys its development from the establishment of Roman authority in the 1st century after Christ to the Wars of the Roses in the 15th century. While attention in the lectures and discussions will be given to as many of the various areas as possible, primary focus will be given to developments will be given to the activities of the Crown and the Church, the institutions primarily responsible for the growth of the medieval English state.

A schedule of lecture topics and dates along with reading assignment, test dates and other significant information will be found below. In addition to the mid-term and final examinations, a major research paper is required. Details about the term paper are provided below.

Grading/Evaluation:

For undergraduates:

Final grades will be determined on the basis of your mid-term examination, final examination, and term paper, each of which counts about 30% of the final grade. The remaining 10% will be figured on the basis of class attendance.

For graduate students
In addition to the requirements for undergraduate members of the class, graduate members are going to be doing two analytical book reviews. Students should select modern historical monographs on which to write their reviews. They will be expected to deal with both different periods (e.g., Roman and high medieval) and different aspects of history (e.g., intellectual, economic). These reviews will include the use of at least three major scholarly reviews on which to develop your own critical view of the book. Graduate students are also expected to demonstrate in their review a thorough familiarity with the writer and his/her significance to the field of medieval English history. Each graduate student will be chosen to lead a discussion with the class on one of the discussion days; you may request a discussion day, and I will make the final selection. Your grade for that assignment will be determined by your thorough knowledge of the primary sources that are to be read and discussed and your success in evoking interest and responses from class members, both undergraduate and graduate. Ultimately, final grades for graduates will be based on 20% for the book reviews, 30% for the term paper, and 20% each for the mid-term and final examinations. The remaining 10% will be based on the success of your discussion session.

Policies:
Grading Scale: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 0-59%.

Students needing accommodations should arrange a meeting the first week of class. Come during office hours or email for an alternate time. Bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. Discuss items needed in this class. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need special accommodations, make an appointment with The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to behave with integrity. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in the manner specified in the Tiger Cub.

Students may withdraw (although with a W on their transcript) until midsemester.

Make-ups for all missed and late work are allowed with proper University approved excuses within one week of the original due date.

Student emails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt.

The final exam will be given at the University set time and date.

Class attendance is required.

All readings are to be completed before coming to class.

There are no unannounced quizzes.
SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS, SOURCE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES

Week 1: Roman Britain: the first civilization
Hollister, Chapter 1

Week 2: The Anglo-Saxons: invasions and Christianization
Hollister, Chapters 2 and 3
Discussion 1: Past Speaks, Chapter 1

Weeks 3/4: The Anglo-Saxons and the Norman Conquest
Hollister, Chapter 4

Week 5/6: Norman England
Hollister: Chapter 5
Discussion 2: Past Speaks, Chapter 2

Week 7: The Reign of Henry II
Hollister: Chapter 6
MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Weeks 8/9: Richard the Lion-Hearted and King John.
Hollister: Chapters 6 continued and 7
Discussion 3: Past Speaks, Chapter 4

Hollister: Chapters 8, 9
Discussion 4: Past Speaks, Chapter 3

Week 11: The Reign of Edward II: Introduction to the 14th century
Hollister, Chapter 10
TERM PAPERS DUE END OF WEEK 11

Week 12: Edward III and the Hundred Years War
Hollister, Chapter 11

Week 13: The Reign of Richard II
Hollister, Chapter 12
Discussion 5: Past Speaks, Chapter 9

Week 14: The Lancastrian Dynasty and the Hundred Years War
Suggestions on researching and writing your Papers

Choosing a specific topic is very important, and you should probably consult with me prior to your committing yourself to it so that we can agree that the subject in which you are interested is one which I believe will be appropriate as well as "do-able" given our library resources. Since the term papers are due, you should plan to submit your topic in writing to me.

Here are some random examples of term paper topics:
The Conflict of Henry II and Thomas Becket in Historical Perspective
The Last Years of Anglo-Saxon Rule in England
England, Flanders and Wool: the Economic Relationship
England and the Franciscan Friars
The Battle of Bouvines and the Reign of King John

The text of your paper should run at least 8 to 10 pages, NOT including the title page and bibliography. You should use at least five books in the preparation of this paper, NONE of which may be encyclopedias or textbooks (although you may consult general works for background information). Please use Kate L. Turabian's A Manual for Writers for all notes and bibliographical forms. Most know this as the style used in the History Department.

Remember that your paper should not merely a narrative but should have a purpose/point in which the student seeks to analyze and explain so that the reader can appreciate the historical significance of a person or event, the varying interpretations historians may have, and/or the controversies surrounding the event/phenomenon. If you have never written a major paper in a college history course, you may wish to talk to me about how to choose a topic and how to approach researching it.

Some stylistic and editorial warnings:
Avoid over foot-noting and over direct quoting. Paraphrasing with credit given the source in a note is perfectly acceptable in lieu of quotations from various books that have been essentially strung together. Remember that commonly accepted basic information does not require a note revealing the source. Common sense should tell the writer whether or not a note is needed; be aware that every item of specific, "common" information does not require a note for its source.