History 5370/6370: Early Modern British History

Books available for purchase:
_Divine Right and Democracy*, edited by David Wootton (Hackett, 2003)

Course Description and Objectives:
This is an upper-level undergraduate/graduate course designed to introduce students to major themes and problems in early modern English history, from 1485 until the early eighteenth century. Traditionally, this long period of history has been interpreted as the time in which England transformed from an economic and political backwater into one of the most powerful and important European states of the modern era. We will use a variety of primary and secondary sources to evaluate key historical events and transformations in order to assess this characterization. This is not an easy task, as this course will continuously challenge you to attempt to understand historical actors and the motivations for their actions. History is the exploration of *why* things happened in the past (not just *what* happened), and we will be using a variety of historical texts to investigate this question during each class.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Grading:
1. Class Participation 20%
2. Document Collection Assignment 10%
3. Research Paper 40%
4. Midterm and Final (15% each) 30%

1. Class participation counts for 20% of your final grade. Therefore regular attendance and participation are essential to succeed in this class. You should come to each class having read the assignments, prepared to participate and contribute to class discussion in a constructive manner. Class attendance will therefore also figure into your participation grade. Keep in mind this is the part of your grade over which you have the most control!!

There will be study questions posted on the class Blackboard page for each set of readings. The study questions will be in the folder for a given day’s assignments. I ask you to read the assignments with these questions in mind, but to not be limited by them. They are simply a means to provide some guidance as you read through unfamiliar and sometimes difficult material.

**Undergraduates** will be expected to post responses to study questions **ONCE PER WEEK** over the course of the semester. **Graduate** students will post **TWICE PER WEEK**. Each set of readings will have its own set of 5-6 study questions, and it is entirely up to you which one(s) you decide to respond to during a given week. Your responses should be about 150-200 words long, and address one or two of the study questions. You must post your responses on the Blackboard page by **7PM the night before class**. This will allow me enough time to read through the responses before class. Although you are not being asked to post a response for each class discussion, I do ask that you **READ** the study questions for each class. Should you miss postings, you cannot make them up by doing them all at the end of the semester.

2. Because this class is in part designed to introduce students to historical methods and the use of primary documents, there will be one document collection assignment, which will count for 10% of your final grade. The document collection will consist of a variety of PRIMARY documents (4-6) on a historical topic and question. Documents include, but are by no means limited to: sermons, diaries, political treatises, newspapers, broadsides, economic pamphlets, parliamentary debates, poems, plays, trial records, local record
society papers, State Papers, as well as manuscript sources available on microfilm and other media. You should write a 2-3 page essay introducing the documents and highlighting the historical and historiographical questions raised by the documents. This document collection will serve as a way for you to begin investigating your paper research paper. Keep in mind you might need to order materials via Inter-Library Loan (ILL) for your document collection and paper. All students must meet with me to discuss research topics for the document collection and research paper.

3. There will be a major research paper that will count for 40% of your final grade. The paper should be 15-20 pages in length and address a significant historical question in early modern English history. It should outline historiographical debates about the question at hand, and use primary documents to assess the historiography and provide your own interpretation and insights into the historical question. We will talk more about formulating good historical questions with regard to your research paper later in the semester.

Possible document collection/research paper topics include:

- Tudor Society
- English Reformation and Popular Culture
- Cardinal Wolsey and the English Reformation
- The Elizabethan Settlement
- The Defeat of the Spanish Armada
- Virginia and the Early English Empire
- Gunpowder Plot
- Ancient Constitution
- England and the Thirty Years’ War
- Personal Rule of Charles I
- Archbishop Laud and Arminianism
- Execution of Charles I
- The English Civil War and Popular Imagination
- The Causes of the English Civil War
- Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate
- Restoration of Church and State in 1660
- Anglo-Dutch Wars
- Restoration Imperialism
- Exclusion or Restoration Crisis
- Growth of the Public Sphere in England
- England and the Slave Trade in the late Seventeenth Century
- The Glorious Revolution
- King William’s War/Nine Years’ War

You will notice that many of these potential topics are quite large, and suit themselves to more particular questions or approaches. For example, you aren’t going to want to write a paper on the three Anglo-Dutch Wars; it would be far too overwhelming. Instead, use this topic as a starting point and decide on your question after reading through some primary documents, skimming some key secondary sources, as well as talking to me about your interests and possible questions. An outline and bibliography of your research paper will be due six weeks before the paper.

Note to graduate students: you are required to write a 5-7 page book review essay related to your research paper (see below).

4. There will be two exams, a mid-term and a final exam, each counting for 15% of your final grade (30% total). The exams will consist of an ID section of terms and quotations as well as an essay section.
ID lists and study questions posted on the Blackboard page for each day’s readings will serve as your study guides.

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.

**Justification for Graduate Credit**

Because this is an upper-level course with a heavy reading load, graduate students will not be asked to read extra assignments for class discussions. They are expected to do more work than the undergraduates, and they will be evaluated accordingly. Graduate students are required to respond to study questions twice per week on the course Blackboard page (as opposed to once); this is a key element of their participation grade. In addition, graduate students are required to write a 5-7 page historiography paper. The assignment reads as follows:

“Once you have selected a document collection/research paper topic, part of your assignment is to write a book review that discusses and assesses the existing historiography on your chosen topic. For this assignment you should read 4 books (or 2-3 books and some articles, depending on the topic) and write a paper (5-7 pages) that reviews the major literature on your topic. Your paper should have a clear introduction that lays out the questions at hand, and which books/authors you will be discussing. It should end with your own questions, thoughts and ideas about the existing literature and how your research into the given topic will contribute to the current historiography.”

This assignment is designed to introduce graduate students to the craft of historiography: how to read it, how to assess it, and how to write about it. Mastering what is meant by “historiography” and how to utilize it successfully for one’s own research is an absolutely essential skill that all professional historians must have. This assignment is designed with this idea of professional development in mind.
Reading assignments marked with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus are available on the class Blackboard page.

**Schedule of Classes and Assignments:**

**Week 1:** Introduction and Expectations

Setting the Stage: England in 1485
Lockyer, chapter 1
* Richard III’s *Proclamation against Henry* (1485)
* Henry’s “Speech to his Army,” (1485)
* *Trial and Execution of Perkin Warbeck and Others* (1499)

**Week 2:** Tudor Society

Lockyer, chapter 6
* Sir Thomas Smith, *De Republica Anglicana* (1565)
* *An Act Against Wearing Costly Apparel* (1510)
* *An Act Against the Pulling Down of Towns* (1489)

Discussion: *Utopia*

**Week 3:** Henry VIII and Wolsey

Lockyer, chapter 2
* Ambassador Sebastian Giustiniani’s Report on Wolsey (1519)
* John Skelton, *Why come Ye not to Court?* (1523)
* *The Opening of the Reformation Parliament* (1529)

The Break with Rome
Lockyer, chapter 3 (pp. 48-62)
* Thomas Cranmer’s Letter on Henry VIII’s divorce (1533)
* *An Act Concerning Restraint of payment of annates* (1533)
* *Act in Restraint of Appeals* (1533)
* *An Act for the Submission of the Clergy* (1533)
* *Act of Supremacy* (1534)
* *An Act Extinguishing the authority of the bishop of Rome* (1536)

**Week 4:** Reformation I: Dissolution of the Monasteries

Lockyer, chapter 3 (pp. 62-82)
* *An Act that all Religious Houses...Shall be Dissolved* (1536)
* Account of the Pilgrimage of Grace (1536)
* Pontefract Articles (1536)
* The Suppression of Glastonbury Abbey (1539)

Reformation II: Henry VIII’s Last Years and Edward VI
Lockyer, chapter 4 AND chapter 5 (pp. 107-123)
* *An Act Abolishing Diversity in Opinions* (1539)
* *A Mandate for Publishing and Using the Prayers in the English Tongue* (1545)
* *Act Against Images* (1549)
* Cranmer’s Answer to the Devon Rebels (1549)

**Week 5:** Catholic Reactions: The Reign of Mary I
Lockyer, chapter 5 (pp. 124-138)
*Mary’s Proclamation Restoring Church Lands (1554)
*Mary’s Order for the Execution of John Hooper (1555)
*Robert Parkyn’s “Narrative of the Reformation,” (1555)
*John Foxe, Book of Martyrs (excerpts) (1555)

The Elizabethan Settlement
Lockyer, chapter 8 (pp. 184-190)
* Elizabeth’s Proclamation Forbidding Preaching (1558)
* Act of Uniformity (1559)
* The Thirty-Nine Articles (1571)

Puritans and Catholics
Lockyer, chapter 8 (pp. 190-211) AND chapter 9 (212-218)
A Homily against Disobedience, in Wootton, pp. 94-98 (1570)
* Field and Wilcox, an Admonition to the Parliament (1571)
* Letters of Elizabeth I on Mary, Queen of Scots (1586-7)
* Letter of Mary, Queen of Scots to the King of France (1587)

Week 6: Origins of the English Empire
* Anthony Pagden, “The Struggle for Legitimacy and the Image of Empire in the Atlantic c. 1700”
* Richard Hakluyt, Discourse of Western Planting (1584)
* Sir Humphrey Gilbert, New Passage to Cataia (1578)

Elizabethan Foreign Policy
Lockyer, chapter 9 (218-228) AND chapter 10
* An Oration Militarie (1588)
* Queen Elizabeth’s Speech at Tilbury (1588)

Week 7: Discussion: Henry V

James VI and I
Lockyer, chapter 7 (pp. 173-183) AND chapter 11 (pp. 253-262)
James VI, Trew Law of Free Monarchies, in Wootton, 99-106 (1598)
* James VI and I, Speech to the Star Chamber (1601)
James VI and I, Speech to the Lords and Commons, in Wootton, 107-9 (1610)

Week 8: Jacobean Political Thought
Lockyer, chapter 12
Sir John Davies, Le Primer Report, in Wootton, 131-143 (1615)
Sir Edward Coke, Le Tierce Part, in Wootton, 143-145 (1602)

Gunpowder Plot and Religion
Lockyer, chapter 11 (pp. 262-274)
* The Millenary Petition (1603)
* William Leigh, Great Britain’s Great Deliverance (1606)

MID-TERM EXAM

Week 9: England and the Thirty Years’ War
* Thomas Scott, *Vox Populi* (1620)
* Francis Bacon, “Considerations Touching a Holy War” (1624)

Charles I and Laudianism
Lockyer, chapter 13
* Nicholas Tyacke, “Puritanism, Arminianism and Counter-Revolution”
* Peter Lake, “Anti-Popery: The Structure of a Prejudice”

Charles I and Parliament
Lockyer, chapter 14 (pp. 316-321)
* Roger Maynwaring, *Religion and Allegiance* (first sermon; 1627)
* Petition of Right, in Wootton, 168-171 (1628)

Week 10: The Long Parliament
Lockyer, chapter 14 (pp. 321-339)
* Grand Remonstrance (1641)
* King Charles’s Answer to the Grand Remonstrance (1642)
*Nineteen Propositions* (1642)
Charles I, *His Majesties Answer*, in Wootton, 171-174 (1642)

The World Turned Upside-Down
Lockyer, chapter 15
* An Agreement of the People*, in Wootton, 283-285 (1647)
* The Putney Debates*, in Wootton, 285-317 (1647)
Gerrard Winstanley, *A New-Yeers Gift*, in Wootton, 317-33 (1650)

Historiography of the Civil War
* Christopher Hill, “A Bourgeois Revolution?”
* John Morrill, “The Religious Context of the English Civil War”
* Lucy Hutchinson, *Memoirs*, 66-80 (1673)

Week 11: Execution of Charles I
Lockyer, chapter 15 (pp. 348-358)
* Trial of Charles I* (selections) (1649)
* John Milton, *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates* (1649)
Robert Filmer, *Observations upon Aristotle’s Politiques*, in Wootton, 110-120 (1653)

Commonwealth and Protectorate
Lockyer, chapter 16 (pp. 359-374)
* An Act for Subscribing the Engagement*, in Wootton, 357-8 (1650)
* Some Scruples of Conscience*, in Wootton, 358-360 (1650)
* A Declaration of his Highness...against Spain* (1655)
* Oliver Cromwell’s Speech to Parliament (1656)

Restoration I: State
Lockyer, chapter 16 (pp. 375-378) AND chapter 18 (pp. 392-396)
* John Milton, *Readie & Easie Way* (1660)
* Sir William Coventry, *Plea for Limited Monarchy* (1660)
* England’s Redemption* (1660)
* John Dryden, *Astraea Redux* (1660)
Week 12: Restoration II: Church
Lockyer, chapter 18 (pp. 397-401)
* John Fell, The Interest of England Stated (1659)
* The Phanatick Intelligencer (1660)
* Another Cry of the Innocent and Oppressed (1665)

Anglo-Dutch Wars
Lockyer, chapter 18 (pp. 401-412)
* Charles Molloy, Hollands Ingratitude (1666)
* Algernon Sidney, Court Maxims (selections)

Seventeenth Century Society
Lockyer, chapter 17 AND chapter 22
Guy Miege, “Social Life in Late-Seventeenth Century England,” in Pincus, 57-64
“The Effects of the New Long-Distance Trades,” in Pincus, 64-66
“The Rise of the Coffeehouse,” in Pincus, 66-68

Week 13: Restoration Crisis I
Lockyer, chapter 18 (pp. 412-423)
* Earl of Shaftesbury, Letter from a Person of Quality (1675)
* Andrew Marvell, The Growth of Popery and Arbitrary Government (1677)

Restoration Crisis II
* William Cavendish, Reasons for his Majesties Passing the Bill (1681)
* John Brydall, The Absurdity of that New Devised State-Principle (1681)
Algernon Sidney, Discourses Concerning Government, in Wootton, 417-444 (pub. 1698)

The Tory Ascendancy and the Reign of James II
Lockyer, chapter 18 (pp. 423-425) AND chapter 19 (pp. 426-434)
George Hickes, “Criticism of Religious Nonconformity,” in Pincus, 124-127 (1685)
James II, Declaration of Indulgence, in Pincus, 132-135 (1687)

Week 14: Glorious Revolution
Lockyer, chapter 19 (pp. 434-442)
Steven Pincus, England’s Glorious Revolution, 1-33
Invitation of the Seven, in Pincus, 37-39 (1688)
William III, The Declaration, in Pincus, 39-43 (1688)
Declaration of Rights, in Pincus, 69-71 (1689)
Gilbert Burnet, “A Defense of the Williamite View of the Constitution,” in Pincus, 75-82 (1688)

England at War
Lockyer, chapter 19 (pp. 442-454)
“Revolution in Foreign Policy” section in Pincus, 82-102

Commerce and Empire
Week 15: Toleration Debated
  John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (1689)

Reign of Queen Anne
  Lockyer, chapter 20
  * Henry Sacheverell, *The Character of a Low Church-Man* (1710)
  Bernard Mandeville, *The Fable of the Bees*, in Wootton, 493-503

The Creation of “Great Britain:” The Union of 1707
  Lockyer, chapter 21 (pp. 487-501)
  * Daniel Defoe, *Caledonia*