HISTORY 220: BRITISH HISTORY TO 1688
Fall 2003

Instructor: Wojciech Beltkiewicz

Lecture: Monday & Wednesday, 11:30 – 1:00, 1528 CCL
Section 2: Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:00, 3406 Mason Hall
Section 3: Wednesday, 4:00 – 5:00, 3402 Mason Hall
Section 4: Tuesday, 2:00 – 3:00, B119 Modern Languages Bldg

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 – 2:00, Wednesdays 1:30– 2:30, or by appointment, at 1633 Haven Hall.

E-mail: wbeltkie@umich.edu
HTTP: www-personal.umich.edu/~wbeltkie

Mailbox: Mailroom, located across from 1029 Tisch Hall. (closes at 5:00) E-mail me anytime you decide to drop something off.

Contact Policy: The most effective way to contact me is via e-mail. Since I check my e-mail usually once per day, I reserve the right to maintain at least a 24 hour wait period before your query is answered. Lengthier questions and concerns are usually best addressed at office hours.

Section Overview: Section meetings will be devoted to discussing material presented at lectures and in assigned texts. The purpose of sections is to create a favourable environment for discussion. We will try to approach the readings from as many points of view as possible, consequently, please show courtesy toward your fellow classmates. Contesting points of view are the lifeblood of a good debate. Don’t feel that you need to bow to convention; there was little that was politically correct in medieval and Early Modern Britain. With the latter in mind, however, any put-downs, rude interruptions, shouting matches, and general lack of respect will not be tolerated. Please shut off all cell phones, beepers, or any otherwise noisy devices upon entering the classroom.

Grading Policy: As noted in Prof. MacDonald’s syllabus, approximately 50% to 70% percent of your grade will depend on the two major exams. The remaining portion will come from short paper assignments and class participation.

- Papers will be graded primarily on the quality of your arguments. Having learned English from scratch, proper spelling and sound grammar are a pet peeve of mine. If you’re uncertain about any aspect of your paper, please come and visit me at office hours. Deadlines for written projects will be provided in the near future.
• **Class participation** begins with timely attendance. Since we meet only once a week, any number of absences greater than two will have a negative impact on your grade. Attending your assigned section on a consistent basis, being prepared by having done the readings, and actively participating in discussions are all fundamental toward getting a good grade in this course. Like the medieval saints we will encounter in this course, an early lapse does not necessarily spell your damnation. However, continuous and steady self-improvement will reap greater rewards than a last-minute repentance.

**Occasional Quizzes.** For the purpose of making certain that everyone is up to date on the assigned readings, every once in a while there will a surprise quiz. Each will consist of three questions, plus one bonus question to allow you to make up any of the previous three that you’ve missed. These will be graded on a check +, check, check – scale, and will be counted toward or against your class participation. It will also allow me to be aware of who has a speaking phobia, as opposed to who has not done the assigned readings. If you’ve conscientiously done the reading, the quizzes need not be feared.

**Grade Revision Policy:** Grade appeals will be considered only after the following are met: A written request will be e-mailed to me or left in my mailbox, **at least 24 hours after**, the initial grade has been given. In this message, the grievance will be outlined in a brief paragraph as to why the student believes a higher grade is merited. The student will also make an appointment during which the details of the grievance will be discussed in detail. Note that in the grade appeal process there is always the chance that your grade might actually be lowered, if reasons for such are discovered.

**Late Assignments and Missed Exams:** Barring any extreme emergencies, all tardy work will be penalised. One grade (i.e. A- to B+) will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Please also take note of the mid-term and final dates. Barring any conflicts you may have in other courses, the dates and times are fixed, so make your travel plans accordingly.