History 220: England to 1688
Fall Term, 2003
Mon./Weds. 11:30-1:00, 1528 CCL

Lecturer: Michael MacDonald
2725 Haven Hall
Office Hours: Weds. 2:30-5:00 & by appointment

mmacdon@umich.edu
741-0421 (home)
763-0120 (office)

This class is an introductory survey of the history of England from ancient times to the Glorious Revolution of 1688. Introductory but not simplified: it assumes no prior knowledge of the subject but strives to engage the complexities and challenges of studying a nation and period with a famously excellent and contentious tradition of historical writing.

It focuses on the major events in English history in the Middle Ages and era of the Tudor and Stuart monarchs. The emphasis will necessarily be on political and religious developments, but aspects of social and economic history will also be covered. At the end of the term students should have a good grasp on the trajectory of English history as the nation formed and evolved into a medieval and then an early modern polity and society. There will be two lectures weekly and one section meeting for all students. The lectures will offer an interpretive narrative of English history that will complement, amplify and/or challenge the narrative in the basic text and extend it to a more advanced level intellectually. They will also seek to give students something of a feel for what particular historical figures were like, how life was led and what England looked like at various stages in its development. The sections will be devoted to discussion of points made in lecture and the assigned secondary and primary materials. Primary documents will be assigned in conjunction with section meetings from time to time during the term.
Lecture Topics and Readings

This is list of the main themes of the lectures and a schedule for readings. We may zoom ahead at times or linger longer on particular subjects, depending on the lecturer’s sense of whether less or more time is desirable to interest and adequately inform this particular group of students. The reading schedule is coordinated more or less with the lectures. The GSI will make more precise weekly assignment for discussion sections; and of course brief, additional primary materials will also be assigned for some section meetings. This bill of fare will, however, give you a guide to the order and general pace of lectures and readings.

I (9/3)  

**Introduction and England’s Early History**  

II (9/8-10)  

**Invasions and Conquests**  
M.T. Clanchy, *England and Its Rulers*, chs. 2, 3 (coursepack)

III (9/15-17)  

**Monarchy and Church**  
W.L. Warren, *King John*

IV (9/22-24)  

**Revolt and Revolution**  
M.T. Clanchy, *England and Its Rulers*, ch. 12, Epilogue (coursepack)

V (9/29-10/1)  

**Kings, Parliaments & Priests**  

VI (10/6-8)  

**Plague and Peasant Rebellion**  
Bennett, *A Medieval Life*  

VII (10/15)  

**Deposition and Dynastic Warfare**

*Study day, October 13; Mid-term Examination, October 15*
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VIII (10/20-22)  
Tudor Reforms  
Coursepack articles from the debate over Early Tudor reforms in government  
David Starkey, “Which Age of Reform?”  
G.R. Elton, “A New Age of Reform?”

IX (10/27-29)  
Reformation and Counter-Reformation  
Brigden: New Worlds, Lost Worlds, chs. 3, 4, 6 (coursepack)

X (11/3-5)  
Elizabethan Compromises  
Haigh, Elizabeth I

XI (11/10-13)  
Elizabethan Challenges & Achievements  
Roberts, Roberts & Bisson, History of England, chs. 13-16

XII (11/17-19)  
Religious Strife and Political Conflict  
Underdown, Fire From Heaven

XIII (11/24)  
Radical Religion and Revolution  
Coursepack chapter and documents by the Levellers.  
F.D. Dow, Radicalism in the English Revolution 1640-1660, ch. 3.  
“The Levellers” from Keith Lindley, The English Civil War and Revolution, pp. 148-59

Thanksgiving, 11/26

XIV (12/1-3)  
Radical Politics and Army Rule  
Coward, Cromwell

XV (12/8-10)  
Restoration and (Another) Revolution

XVI 12/10  
Retrospective

Final Examination: Tuesday, December 16, 1:30-3:30
Readings and Audiovisual Resources

Readings for purchase at Shaman Drum Bookshop, 311-15 S. State St. (upstairs):

Warren, W.L. *King John.* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982)

Coursepack:
A coursepack containing extracts from important historical studies and a few primary source documents is available from ACCU-COPY, 518 E. William Street.

Additional Audiovisual Resources:

We shall show in class and/or recommend parts of these during the term, but you may also watch or explore them yourself at the Library or in the case of *Medieval Realms* over the web.

*A History of Britain: the complete collection.* [Videorecording written and presented by Simon Schama.] Volumes I-VI. Published: New York, N.Y.: A&E Television Networks: distributed by New Video, c2002. Location: FILM & VIDEO LIB (Room 2178, UGL) (Restricted Access)--Call No: VIDEO-D 35025-D --Note: For access info call 734-764-5360 (Film/Video Lib, 2178 UGL)

*Medieval Realms* [networked CD ROM] by the staff of the British Library. A brilliant and comprehensive collection of original source material for the Middle Ages in Britain. It contains images of manuscripts, artefacts and buildings together with transcripts and translations into modern English of key written sources. http://ets.umd.umich.edu/m/medrealm/ (Also via the Library Gateway, choosing Networked Electronic Resources, then Medieval Realms from the alphabetical menu of choices.)

*The Making of the United Kingdom: crowns, parliaments and peoples, 1500-1750.* [CD ROM.] A less impressive collection of materials than the former, featuring brief slide sets with sonorous (oversimplified) narration on key subjects but also allowing access to images and documents. 1. Location: UNDERGRADUATE--Call No: CD-ROM Ugl2 Windows ed.
--Item:: Shelved in: UNIVERSITY RESERVES (Closed Stacks).
Writing Assignments

There will be two examinations, a mid-term on October 15 and a final on December 16. Each will include both "identifications" to discuss briefly and essay questions. Lists of essay questions (from which the exam questions will be selected) will be distributed for study and review one week before each examination. The questions on the tests will be selected from them. In order to help you prepare for the examinations, there will be review sessions a day or two before each, at times and places to be announced in class and on the lists of study questions. We shall also hold additional office hours in the weeks preceding the examinations. There will be no trick questions; our aim is to help you to demonstrate your mastery of the materials presented in class and the readings and to stimulate your thinking about important problems.

In addition, there will also be two short papers (about five page each) on assigned topics, one in the first half of the term and another in the second. Topics and due dates will be announced well in advance. These papers will deepen your understanding of particular readings and help you to prepare for the examinations.

* A Seventeenth-Century Peasant
Adriaen van Ostade, ca. 1638