

**HISTORY 295.04**  
**EARLY BRITISH HISTORY**  
**(Roman Britain to 1660)**

Professor George Drake  
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Fall Semester, 2012-2013  
MW 2:15-3:35  
ARH 318

The course will analyze the development of major British institutions from Celtic and Roman beginnings to the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660. There will be class discussion as well as interpretive lectures, often focusing on documents posted on Blackboard.

**Assigned Readings:**

Bede, *A History of the English Church and People*; Penguin, 1968  
C. Warren Hollister, *The Making of England*; Houghton Mifflin, 2001  
George O. Sayles, *The King's Parliament of England*; Norton, 1974  
Lacey Baldwin Smith, *This Realm of England*; Houghton Mifflin, 2001  
Hilary Mantel, *Wolf Hall*; Picador, 2009  
Christopher Hill, *The Century of Revolution 1603-1714*, Routledge, 1980  
Readings and documents on Blackboard

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Assignments and grading will be divided among: 1) Examinations (35%);  
2) Papers (55%); and 3) Class Participation (10%).

1. *Examinations*: Mid-Term: Wednesday, October 17 (15%)  
Final Examination: Friday, December 21, 2:00 p.m. (20%)

2. *Papers*

**ESSAY:** There is one essay (approximately 5 pages) which will be discussed in a tutorial. The essay will be due on Wednesday, October 3 and your choice of topic will be due on Wednesday, September 26. (15%)

The essay will be discussed in small group tutorials organized according to topics (following an exchange of essays with your tutorial colleagues). Your essay can be written from the assigned reading.

Choose one of these topics:

1. *What are the strengths and limitations of Bede's History of the English Church and People as a source for British History?*

2. "Norman and Angevin Kinship was in many respects constitutional." Do you agree or disagree and why?

Following your submission of topic and available times on Wednesday, September 26, I will assign you to a tutorial group according to your topic and schedule. You will provide copies to me and your tutorial colleagues, due on Wednesday, October 3. Tutorials are scheduled in the week of October 8-12.

TERM PAPER: You will write a term paper (10-15 pages) on a subject to be chosen in consultation with Professor Drake (this consultation will occur during the week of October 29 to November 2, immediately after Fall Break. You are expected to use sources well beyond the assigned reading. The paper is due on Friday, May 14 at 4:00 p.m.

QUESTION/OBSERVATION PAGES: You will write three two-page Question/Observations due in class on Monday, September 10, Wednesday October 31 and Monday, November 19. (15%)

3. *Reading and Class Participation:*

You are expected to do the assigned reading in a timely manner. This is the heart of the course. Each of you is responsible for class attendance and discussion. Much of the quality of your experience depends on your willingness to participate in thought and word during class. (10%)

**Summary:**

Percentage of Grade

1. Examinations:

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Mid-Term | 15%        |
| Final    | <u>20%</u> |
|          | (35%)      |

2. Papers:

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Essay/Tutorial        | 15%        |
| Term Paper            | 25%        |
| Question/Observations | <u>15%</u> |
|                       | (55%)      |

3. Class Participation

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
|       | <u>10%</u> |
| Total | (100%)     |

## WEEK I

Friday, August 31      *Introduction*

## WEEK II

Monday, September 3      *Celtic and Roman Britain*  
Reading: Hollister: Chapter 1  
Bede: Preface; Bk I, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, 12, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23,24  
Blackboard: # 1-2 (The number of the reading, not the page)

Wednesday, September 5      *Roman Britain and the Anglo-Saxons*  
Reading: Hollister: Chapter 2 (to: Toward Political Consolidation:  
Mercia)  
Bede: Book I, Chapters 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33  
Blackboard: #3-4

## WEEK III

Monday, September 10      *The Anglo-Saxons*  
Reading: Hollister: Chapter 2 (Finish), Chapter 3 (to the Reign of  
Ethelred “the Unready”)  
Bede: Bk II, Chapters 2,3, 5,9, 10, 11, 13, 14; Bk III,  
Chapter 25; Bk IV, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, Bk V,  
Chapters 9, 10, 22, 23, 24

**Assignment: Question/Observation pages on Bede due in class**

Wednesday, September 12      *The Anglo-Saxons, Manorialism and the  
Norman Conquest*  
Reading: Hollister: Chapter 3 (Finish), Chapter 4  
Blackboard: # 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 24

## WEEK IV

Monday, September 17      *The Normans: Feudalism*  
Reading: Hollister: Chapter 5  
Blackboard: # 29, 30, 32, 36; F.W. Maitland, The Feudal  
Heritage

Wednesday, September 19    *The Normans: Feudalism, Law and Angevin Kings*

Reading: Hollister: Chapter 6 (to Richard the Lion Hearted)

Blackboard: # 35, 36, 41, 44, 45, 37

## WEEK V

Monday, September 24    *Henry II, John and Magna Carta*

Reading: Hollister: Chapter 6 (Finish)

Blackboard: #49, 50

Wednesday, September 26    *Magna Carta, Early Parliaments*

Reading: Hollister: Chapter 8

Sayles, Chapters 1-2

**Assignment: Turn in choice of tutorial topic as well your schedule of time for a tutorial during the week of October 8-12**

## WEEK VI

Monday, October 1    *Parliaments and Statute Law*

Reading: Hollister: Chapter 9

Sayles: Chapters 3-7

Blackboard: #65

Wednesday, October 3    *Early Towns, Commerce, Countryside*

Reading: Hollister: Chapter 7 (to High Medieval Christianity)

Blackboard: Town Origins; #53, 54

**Assignment: Submit your essay to Professor Drake and your tutorial colleagues by 4:00 p. m.**

## WEEK VII

## TUTORIALS

Monday, October 8    *Christian Culture*

Reading: Hollister: Chapter 7 (Finish), Chapter 10

Blackboard: John of Salisbury, Roger Bacon (p 48);

Knowles: Four English Franciscan Thinkers

Wednesday, October 10    *The Late Middle Ages*

Reading: Hollister: Chapters 11, 12

Blackboard: # 74, 75, 77, 78, 79

## WEEK VIII

Monday, October 15      *The Late Middle Ages*  
Reading: Smith: Chapters 1-3

Wednesday, October 17      **Mid-Term Examination**

## FALL BREAK, OCTOBER 22-26

## WEEK IX      **Individual Consultations re. Term Papers**

Monday, October 29      *The Tudors: Henry VII and Henry VIII*  
Reading: Smith: Chapters 4-6  
Wolf Hall: Cast of Characters, Genealogies, Part I  
Blackboard: # 115,116

(This is a lot of reading for one class period, but I am hoping that you will spend some time during break with this reading. Wolf Hall is an historical novel about Thomas Cromwell and Henry VIII. I believe that once you start reading it, you will want to continue, so it might make excellent Fall Break reading.)

Wednesday, October 31      *The Renaissance*  
Reading: Blackboard: Humanism

**Assignment: Question/Observation pages on Humanism due in class**

## WEEK X

Monday, November 5      *The Reformation: Henry VIII*  
Reading: Smith: Chapter 7  
Wolf Hall: Part II  
Blackboard: #83, 84, 86, Elton, The Henrician Revolution, 120, 122, 123, 126, 127, Guy: pp. 157-167

(The Wolf Hall readings begin to lag the pace of the course from this point. I am dividing them somewhat equally from class-to-class, but you may want to read ahead of the pace outlined in this syllabus.)

Wednesday, November 7      *The Reformation: Edward VI and Mary I*  
Reading: Smith: Chapter 8  
Wolf Hall: Part III  
Blackboard: # 131, 132

**Film: A Man For All Seasons, 5:00 p.m on Sunday, November 11, at Professor Drake's House: 531 Mayflower Lane**

## **WEEK XI**

Monday, November 12      *Elizabeth I*  
Reading: Smith: Chapter 9  
Wolf Hall: Part IV  
Blackboard: # 133, 134, 135, 136, 139, 141, 142

Wednesday, November 14      *Elizabeth I*  
Reading: Smith: Chapter 10  
Wolf Hall: Parts V, VI  
Blackboard: # 147, 150, 153, 154, 155,

## **WEEK XII**

Monday, November 19      *James I*  
Reading: Smith: Chapter 11  
Hill: Chapters 1-4  
Blackboard: # 161, 162, 167, Notestein: The Rise of Commons

**Assignment: Question/Observation pages on the House of Commons, due in class**

Wednesday, November 21      *Charles I*  
Reading: Smith: Chapter 12  
Hill: Chapters 5-6  
Blackboard: # 168, 169, 170

## **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

## WEEK XIII

Monday, November 26      *The Civil War*

Reading: Smith: Chapter 13

Hill: Chapters 7-8

Blackboard: Stone, Crisis of the Aristocracy

Wednesday, November 28      *The Civil War*

Reading: Hill: Chapter 9

Blackboard: Pockock: Coke's Legal and Political Doctrine

## WEEK XIV

Monday, December 3      *The Civil war and Interregnum*

Reading: Hill: Chapter 10

Blackboard: The Putney Debates (pp. 134-135), #178

Wednesday, December 5      *The Interregnum*

Reading: Hill: Chapter 11

Blackboard: # 181, 182, 184, 185, 186

## WEEK XV

Monday, December 10      *The Restoration*

Reading: Smith: Chapter 14 (pp. 319-335)

Hill: Chapter 12

Wednesday, December 12      *Review*

**Term Papers due at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 14**

## EXAMINATION WEEK

**Final Examination: Friday, December 21, 2:00 p.m.**

## EXPLANATION OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

## **I. Question/Observation Pages:**

This is an exercise in writing concisely. Pick an issue or question from the reading that can be presented effectively within the scope of two double-spaced pages ( or less).

## **II. Essays and Tutorials:**

This is an exercise in constructing a persuasive historical argument in essay form. Each of the listed topics invites you to use primary as well as secondary sources. Your argument need not (should not) be exhaustive. Rather, you are expected to focus on the most persuasive evidence, presenting it in a coherent and well- organized and well- written argument. Your essay can be written from the assigned reading, though, obviously, you are free to explore other sources.

The tutorial will provide an opportunity to explain and defend your thesis, while examining and questioning the ideas of your colleagues.

## **III. Term Paper:**

You are invited to develop a topic in consultation with Professor Drake. This is a substantial piece of research and writing, and your paper should focus on a topic that challenges you to examine and analyze primary sources as well as differing interpretations.

It is expected that you will use sources that move well beyond the assigned reading.

## **IV. Examinations:**

One of the principal benefits of examinations is that you will be obliged to review the assigned materials and class notes at least twice during the semester. In the process you will recover insights and information while generating fresh ideas.