

Spring 2007
Prof. Ruth Mazo Karras

History 5900/8900/MeSt 5610/8110

MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

This course will examine important themes in the history and historiography of medieval England, focusing particularly but not exclusively on social history. Our discussions will center on the types of sources available to us for the study of medieval English history, and how historians have used them.

Instructor Information

My office is in 737 Social Science. Office hours will be Wednesday 10:00-12:00, or other times by appointment. My phone number is 612-625-8578, but the best way to reach me is by e-mail at rmk@umn.edu.

Course Requirements

For History 5900/MeSt 5610: A lecture on a topic of your choice, with essay or annotations, 60%; class participation, including a paragraph in response to the reading each week, due by 12:00, preferably by e-mail, 40%. If delivered orally, lecture will be scheduled between May 7-9, and essay will be due at that time; if in writing, due May 9.

The lecture is to be on a topic of your choice. It may be delivered orally or in written form. If it is delivered orally it must be 50 or 75 minutes long. If it is written it must be precisely 25 or 37 pages long in 12 point Courier with 1.25 inch margins. The lecture will be judged on content (does it get at larger issues as well as facts/narrative? is it informed by historiographical knowledge), clarity (are things well explained? is the organization easy to follow?) interest (does it hold attention?) and presentation (is it well delivered or written?) You may, but need not, use Powerpoint or design a website to accompany the lecture.

You will also provide explanatory material in the form of an essay (if the lecture is delivered orally) or endnotes (if it is written out). You will need to explain what kind of course the lecture is for, and where it fits into the course and relates to the other themes covered. It could be the one lecture on medieval England in a Western Civ or World History course, or a more focused lecture in a more specialized course. If you're an English student, it could be a historical background lecture to a Chaucer course, for example. You will explain the choices you've made about what to include and omit, and discuss the primary and secondary sources you've used and how they've informed what you say (with citations in proper form for your discipline).

For History 8900: a research paper (about 7500 words), 70%, due May 9; class participation (including translation/discussion of primary source texts), 30%.

The research paper is to be on a topic of your choice. It will be judged on quality of argument, clarity of organization and presentation, and use of primary sources as well as relevant historiography. I expect you to consult with me throughout the semester as you do research and develop a thesis. There is no fixed schedule for this.

Classroom Policies

Attendance is required. Missing classes for any reason other than illness or emergency will count heavily against your class participation grade. Responses to reading are due even if you miss class; if you have a valid reason for missing class you may make it up. Late papers will receive lower grades, 1/3 of a letter grade for every day late, unless an arrangement is made with the instructor at least two weeks in advance of the due date.

This course is governed by university policies on scholastic dishonesty (plagiarism), equal opportunity, sexual harassment, and disability. These policies are available on the University's web site, and you are responsible for knowing about them.

Books

In most weeks, for 5900 (and 5610), you will have several choices of readings. Most of these are in books that are out of print or only available in hardcover, and are therefore on reserve in the library (marked with (R) on the syllabus). There will be a greater chance of having the book you choose available if you read it early in the week. Books marked with (B) are available at the Bookstore.

For 8900, I have not placed the books on reserve; there are so few of you that you can manage to share.

Everyone should be aware of Edgar B. Graves, *A Bibliography of English History to 1485*, which is shelved in the reference section. 8900 students will find this a useful reference for finding a particular kind of document.

Schedule of Readings

January 23: Law and Government

8900: Look at the Magna Carta and the documents relating to the Barons' Revolt, especially the Provisions of Westminster, in *English Historical Documents* v. 3 (R) 942 En357 .

Also look at the legal text known as Bracton (*On the Laws and Customs of England*), KD600 .B7213 1968. Then find a case from the Curia Regis Rolls, Law Library KD 190 1196x, or from *Bracton's Note Book*, ed. Maitland, KD 190 1217a, and come in prepared to explain what's going on in it.

5900: One of the following:

(R) Alan Harding, *Medieval Law and the Foundations of the State*, KJ147 H37 2002

(R) Paul Hyams, *King, Lords, and Peasants in Medieval England: The Common Law of Villeinage in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries* 326.3 H991

(R) Paul Hyams, *Rancor and Reconciliation in Medieval England* KD608 H95 2003

(R) Frederic Maitland, *Domesday Book and Beyond*, 1-219, 942.02 M28 and
 (R) Susan Reynolds, *Fiefs and Vassals: The Medieval Evidence Reinterpreted*, chs. 1-3 and 8 (MNCAT Internet Resource) .

(R) Matthew Strickland, *War and Chivalry: The Conduct and Perception of War in England and Normandy, 1066-1217*, DA60 S77 1996

January 30: *Literacy and Administration*

8900: (R) *Dialogue of the Exchequer* in *English Historical Documents* v. 2 942 En357

Also: Bring in an example of an entry from an administrative document (Pipe Roll, Close Roll, Patent Roll, Liberate Roll, Charter Roll). See Graves for the formal titles of the series.

5900: (B, R) Michael Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record: England 1066 to 1307*, DA176 .C54 1993

(R) Joyce Coleman, *Public Reading and the Reading Public in Late Medieval England and France*, Z1003.5 G7 C65 1996.

(R) Richard Firth Green, *A Crisis of Truth: Literature and Law in Ricardian England* PR275 L35 G74 1999

February 6: *Manorial Court Records and Rural Life*

- 8900: Read a series of manorial court records, some of which can be found in F.W. Maitland, ed., *Select Pleas in Manorial and Other Seigneurial Courts* Quarto DA20 .P825x v.2, or Edwin De Windt, ed., *The Court rolls of Ramsey, Hepmangrove and Bury, 1268-1600*, Wilson Reference, DA670 .H8 C68x 1990. Try to pick a family and see how well you can trace its members over a period of years.
- 5900: One of the following:
- (R) Zvi Razi and Richard M. Smith, eds., *Medieval Society and the Manor Court*, DA176 .M43 1996
- (R) L.R. Poos, *A Rural Society After the Black Death: Essex, 1350-1525*, DA670 E7 P66 1991
- (R) Sandy Bardsley, *Venomous Tongues: Speech and Gender in Late Medieval England*, PE525 B37 2006
- (R) Marjorie McIntosh, *Controlling Misbehavior in England, 1370-1600*, HN398 E5 M38 1998
- (B, R) Christopher Dyer, *Standards of Living in the Later Middle Ages: Social Change in England c. 1250-1500*, HD7024 D94 1989, relevant portions

February 13: Local Government and Crime

- 8900: Look at at least two of the following (or other examples of the same kind of record—check Graves) and come in prepared to talk about a particular case that interests you:
- Royal justice and the medieval English countryside : the Huntingdonshire eyre of 1286, the Ramsey Abbey banlieu court of 1287, and the assizes of 1287-88*, ed. Anne and Edwin DeWindt CB351 .S78x 57, particularly the eyre portion.
- The Eyre of Northamptonshire 1329-1330*, ed. D.W. Sutherland. Quarto DA20 .P825x v.97
- Norfolk Gaol Delivery Rolls*, ed. Barbara Hanawalt, DA670 .N59 N863 v.44
- Oxfordshire Sessions of the Peace*, ed. E.G. Kimball. DA670 .O9 O94x v.53
- A coroner's roll. A bibliography of those that have been published may be found in Hanawalt (below under 5900).

5900: One of the following:

(R) Barbara Hanawalt, *Crime and Conflict in English Communities 1300-1348*, HV6949 .E5 H35

(R) John Bellamy, *Crime and Public Order in England in the Later Middle Ages* 339.5 B414

(R) John Marshall Carter, *Rape in Medieval England* HV6569.G72 E53 1985

February 20: Church Administration

8900: Look at two of the following, and bring in an example of each and be ready to explain the contents:

A bishop's register. A search of Lumina using keywords "bishop" and "register" will give you a number of examples, some of which may be more recent than Graves.

A visitation record—e.g. "Visitation Returns of Hereford in 1397," ed. Arthur T. Bannister, *English Historical Review* 44 (1929) 92-101 and 45 (1930) 444-63.

A churchwarden's account—see bibliography in French (below under 5900) for examples.

A monastic cartulary—see Graves pp. 810ff.

5900: One of the following:

(R) Katherine L. French, *The People of the Parish* BR744 .F74 2001

(R) William J. Dohar, *The Black Death and Pastoral Leadership* DA670 .H4 D64 1995

(R) Eleanor Searle, *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1513*. CB351 S78X 26

(R) Robert Swanson, *Church and Society in Late Medieval England*, BR750 S83 1989

February 26: "Popular" Religion and Heresy

8900: Look at a piece of devotional literature for the laity: examples would be *Handlyng Synne*, *Jacob's Well*, *Dives and Pauper*, *A myrrour for lewde men and women*. You might also look at sermons, for example John Mirk's *Festial*. Most of these works are in the Early English Text Society series.

Also look at the Lollard Conclusions and other documents in *Selections from English Wycliffite Writings*, ed. Anne Hudson, BX4900 .S44x 1997, and *Heresy Trials in the Diocese of Norwich 1428-31*, ed. Norman Tanner, KD371 .H47 W47x 1977.

5900: Read (B, R) Eamon Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars*, Part I, BR 742 D84 1992, and **also** look at one of the following (you don't have to read it cover to cover, but see if you can quickly get the gist):

(R) Shannon McSheffrey, *Gender and Heresy: women and men in Lollard communities 1420-1530* BX4901.2 .M37 1995

(R) Eamon Duffy, *The Voices of Morebath: Reformation and Rebellion in an English Village* BR977.5 M67 D84 2001

(R) Anne Hudson, *The Premature Reformation: Wycliffite Texts and Lollard History*, BX4901.2 .H84 1988

(R) Kathryn Kerby-Fulton, *Books Under Suspicion: Censorship and Tolerance of Revelatory Writing in Late Medieval England*, BV5091 .R4 K47 2006

March 6: Church Courts and the Regulation of Morality

8900: Look at the cases in the appendix to Helmholz (below, under 5900), and/or in Shannon McSheffrey, ed., *Love and Marriage in Late Medieval London*, KD753 .L68 1995. Also take a look at the consistory court records from Ely, Mfilm 3496. Dorothy Owen, "Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in England, 1300-1550: The Records and their Interpretation," in *The Materials, Sources, and Methods of Ecclesiastical History*, ed. Derek Baker, BR141 .S84 11 may help make sense of this. Bring in a case that is of interest.

5900: Read one of the following:

Shannon McSheffrey, *Marriage, Sex, and Civic Culture in Late Medieval London*

(R) Frederik Pedersen, *Marriage Disputes in Medieval England*, HQ615 P44x 2000

(R) Richard Helmholz, *Marriage Litigation in Medieval England* KD753 .H44 1974

(R) Ruth Mazo Karras, *Common Women: Prostitution and Sexuality in Medieval England* HQ186 .A5 K37 1996

March 13: Spring Break

March 20: No Class

March 27: Family and Household

8900: Look at the *Paston Letters and Papers*, ed. Norman Davis, 942.04 P26da (some other edition is OK if this one isn't in; Davis also has edited a selection with modernized orthography, but if you read that, at least take a look at some of the originals). Bring in a relevant letter.

Also, look at a household account: *Household Accounts from Medieval England*, ed. C.M. Woolgar, DA185 .H68x 1992 (or other household accounts)

5900: Everyone read:

(R) Sarah Rees Jones et al, "The Later Medieval English Urban Household," *History Compass*, 2006

And one of the following:

(R) Nicholas Orme, *Medieval Children* HQ 792.G7 O74 2001

(R) C.M. Woolgar, *The Great Household in Medieval England*, DA185 .W66 1999

(R) Barbara J. Harris, *English Aristocratic Women, 1450-1550: Marriage and Family, Property and Careers* HQ 1599 .E5 H37 2002

April 5: Urban Life

8900: Look at the following series of calendars of London documents: *Letter-Books* (Law Library DA 676 .C66x 1899), *Plea and Memoranda Rolls* 942.2L84 L84cor, *Hustings wills* (Law CS 436 .L7 A16 1889x). Perhaps pick out one particular occupation or craft and see what its members are up to.

5900: Read one of the following:

(R) Martha Carlin, *Medieval Southwark*, DA685 S7 C37 1996

(R) P.J.P. Goldberg, *Women, Work, and Life Cycle in a Medieval Economy: Women in York and Yorkshire, 1300-1530*, HQ1600 Y67 G65 1992

(R) Caroline Barron, *London in the Late Middle Ages: Government and People, 1200-1500* DA680 B36 2004

(B, R) Christopher Dyer, *Standards of Living in the Later Middle Ages: Social Change in England c. 1250-1500*, HD7024 D94 1989, relevant portions

April 12: Material Culture

8900: An archeological site report on a medieval site; references may be found in Colin Platt, *Medieval England*, HN385 P56, or in Hinton (below), as well as elsewhere. Be prepared to discuss methodology.

5900: One of the following:

(R) Christopher Dyer, *Everyday Life in Medieval England*, DA 185 D94 2000

(R) David Hinton, *Gold and Gilt, Pots and Pins: Possessions and People in Medieval Britain* DA90 H56 2005

(R) Roberta Gilchrist, *Gender and Material Culture: The Archeology of Religious Women* BX 4220 G7 G55 1994

(R) Peter Coss and Maurice Keen, eds., *Heraldry, Pageantry, and Social Display in Medieval England*, DA185 H55 2002

April 17: The Revolt of 1381

8900: Look at the chronicles of the revolt in R.B. Dobson, ed., *The Peasants' Revolt of 1381*, (R) 942.038 D656. Pick one chronicle and look at it in the original (a translation is OK; the point is to see the story in context.)

5900: One of the following:

(B) Stephen Justice, *Writing and Rebellion*

(R) Rodney Hilton, *Bond Men Made Free* 942.038 H567

(R) Rodney Hilton and T.H. Aston, ed., *The English Rising of 1381*, DA235 .E54 1984

April 24: Commerce

8900: Pick a particular type of good and find out about it: come in prepared to tell us where it was produced and how that changed over the course of the Middle Ages, who produced it, who used it, and how we know.

5900: One of the following:

(R) Judith M. Bennett, *Ale, Beer, and Brewsters in England: Women's Work in a Changing World, 1300-1600* HD6073 L62 G723 1996

(R) James Maesschaele, *Peasants, Merchants, and Markets: Inland Trade in England 1150-1350*, HF3515 M37 1997

(R) Sylvia Thrupp, *The Merchant Class of Medieval London* HF3510 .L8 T4

(R) R.H. Britnell, *The Commercialisation of English Society 1000-1500*, HF3505 B75 1993

(R) Maryanne Kowaleski, *Local Markets and Regional Trade in Medieval Exeter* HF3520 E95 K68 1995

May 1: On the Margins

8900: Come in prepared to tell us how the sources available for a given topic in Wales, Ireland, or Scotland differ from the sources for England. A good place to begin is S.H. Rigby, ed., *A Companion to Britain in the Later Middle Ages*.

5900: (B) Robert Bartlett, *The Hanged Man: A Story of Miracle, Memory, and Colonialism in the Middle Ages*

(R) R.R. Davies, *The First English Empire: Power and Identities in the British Isles, 1093-1343* DA175 D335 2000

(R) Patricia Skinner, ed., *The Jews in Medieval Britain* DS 135 E5 J45 2003