

## History 3151W: British History to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

Fall 2008

Tuesday/Thursday, 9:45-11:00

Blegen Hall 10

Pre-modern Britain contributed much to the English-speaking world: language, law, representative institutions, folktales, family and household structures, and much more. But these cultural developments were not uncontested in their own time. The "Britain" of later centuries, whose empire made such an impact on the entire world, grew out of a complex mixture of cultures: Celtic, Roman, Christian, Anglo-Saxon, Viking, Norman. In tracing the British Isles from prehistoric times until the mid-seventeenth century, this class focuses on cultural interactions and the development of complex identities as they changed over time.

### *Instructor:*

Professor Ruth Karras, [rmk@umn.edu](mailto:rmk@umn.edu), 612-625-8578.

### *Office hours:*

**Tuesday** 2:30-3:30 in the Center for Medieval Studies, 302 Nolte Center (612-626-0805)

**Wednesday** 10:00-11:00 in 737 Social Science; also both these times via instant messaging. AIM screen name is profkarras; GoogleTalk screen name is profkarras@gmail.com. (Do not send e-mail to that address because I do not check it; use my U of M address for e-mail.) If these times are not convenient you can also make an appointment to talk in person or by IM.

### *Teaching Assistant:*

You will receive a separate syllabus from your TA with contact information, section policies, and assignments.

Sections 2 and 4	Steve Bivans
Sections 3 and 7	Steve Gray
Section 6	Kate Williams

### *Requirements:*

This is both an upper-level history class and a writing-intensive class. It therefore requires the whole range of historical skills, including the evaluation of historical evidence and of scholarly arguments, but focuses particularly on historical writing.

You will have a choice of two sets of writing requirements.

Plan A: a 1000-1500 word paper based on analysis of primary sources assigned for class, due October 9, rewrite due October 23, and a 1000-1500 word book review, due November 25, rewrite due December 9.

Plan B: a 2500-3000 word research paper based on primary sources, on a topic of your choice, statement of topic and preliminary bibliography due October 2, detailed outline and draft of a few pages due November 6, full paper due December 2, rewrite due Dec. 18 at the final exam.

Plan B is recommended for students who have a strong interest in a particular subject that they would like to pursue, or for history majors who want to get experience in independent research. Plan A is the default. If you do not turn in your statement of topic and preliminary bibliography by October 2, you will be held to the requirements of Plan A. If you choose Plan B, you may switch to Plan A with the agreement of your T.A. by submitting your first paper by a date the T.A. will set. If you choose Plan A you may not switch.

There will be a midterm and a final exam. You must take the exams on the scheduled date unless you have a conflict with another regularly scheduled final exam or you have three exams on the same calendar day. In accordance with university policy, you must notify the instructor by the second week of class if one of these conditions applies. You will not be permitted to reschedule the exams because of personal issues (work or travel schedule, etc). Make-ups will be given only in case of exam conflict or documented medical emergency.

Additional writing may be required by your TA (for example, informal writing which counts as part of your participation grade, or additional steps in the process of paper-writing, which count as part of the grade for that paper).

### ***Grading:***

Plan A: first paper, 10%; first paper rewrite, 15%; second paper, 10%; second paper rewrite, 15%; midterm, 15%; final, 25%; class participation, 10%.

Plan B: topic/bibliography, 5%; outline and draft section, 10%; paper, 15%; rewrite, 20%; midterm, 15%; final, 25%; class participation, 10%.

All papers are due at the beginning of lecture on the relevant date. Any item turned in late (including after lecture) will have the grade reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade for each 24 hours it is late. Extensions will be given only in the case of documented illness or emergency. The T.A. will determine whether papers may be submitted electronically.

Attendance at section is required. Three unexcused absences will result in a grade of F in the class. Excused absences are for documented illness or emergency, University-recognized religious holidays, and participation in University-sponsored activities. The T.A. may require make-up work in order for an absence to be excused.

**Reading:**

The textbook for the course is Stanford E. Lehmborg, *The Peoples of the British Isles*, vol. 1, *From Prehistoric Times to 1688*. There are three additional books for purchase: Gerald of Wales, *The History and Topography of Ireland*; Shannon McSheffrey, ed., *Love and Marriage in Medieval London*; and Garrett Mattingly, *The Armada*. There is also a course pack of readings available from the Bookstore (those readings are marked on the syllabus with (CP). All other readings are available on line; go to the electronic version of the syllabus at <http://www.hist.umn.edu/courses/sites.php> to find the links.

The readings are listed below by week. You should have done the reading in Lehmborg each week before the Tuesday lecture. Your TA will let you know when you need to do the other readings.

**Policies:**

Behavior in class must not inconvenience or distract other students. This means: no eating foods that have a strong aroma or make loud crunchy noises; no phone calls or texting; no doing anything on a computer other than taking notes. (Since I can't see what every one is doing, if someone is doing something that distracts you, please ask him/her politely to stop, or let me or one of the TAs know.) Please remove hats with brims during class: it is easier for me to learn who you are if I can see your entire face.

This class observes all University of Minnesota and College of Liberal Arts policies, including but not limited to the following:

**Equal Access:** All persons shall have equal access to U of M programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

**Sexual Harassment:** University of Minnesota Board of Regents policy prohibits sexual harassment, including unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when submission to such conduct is explicitly or implicitly a condition of academic advancement, used as the basis of academic decisions, or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic environment.

**Disability Services:** Any student with a documented disability condition (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, systemic, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact the instructor and Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to contact Disability Services to discuss individual needs for accommodations and for advising about contact with faculty, and to follow up with faculty. Disability Services 180 McNamara Center, (612) 626-1333, [ds@umn.edu](mailto:ds@umn.edu), <http://ds.umn.edu>.

## **Student Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as "plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging , or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis." It also includes inventing or falsifying research or other findings with the intent to deceive, submitting the same or substantially similar papers for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned, depriving another of necessary course materials, and sabotaging another's work.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Plagiarism means presenting someone else's work as your own, intentionally or unintentionally. Copying text from any source, including the Web, without putting quotations marks around it and citing the source, or close paraphrasing without citing the source, is plagiarism. The minimum penalty in this class for any instance of plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is a grade of "F" for the assignment. All academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, and may incur penalties up to and including a grade of "F" or "N" in the class. If you have questions about the expectations for a specific assignment, or are concerned about committing plagiarism unintentionally, please ask the instructor or TA.

***Schedule of Lectures and Readings:***

- Sept 2-5: Prehistoric Culture and Roman Britain
- Lehmberg ch 1  
Handout: Caesar, Cassius Dio, Tacitus, Josephus, Aelius Spartianus, Vindolanda Tablets
- Sept 8-12: Celtic and Roman Christianity; Anglo-Saxon culture
- Lehmberg ch 2
- Life of St. Bridget (CP)  
Penitential of Theodore (CP)  
[“Anglo-Saxon Dooms”](#) (Laws)
- Sept 15-19: Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, and Normans
- [Bede, \*Ecclesiastical History\*](#), selections assigned in section  
Documents on Norman Conquest:  
[Bayeux Tapestry](#)  
[William of Malmesbury, \*The Battle of Hastings\*](#)  
[Hereward the Wake](#)
- Sept 21-26: Royal Power and English Expansion
- Lehmberg chs 3-4  
[Dialogue of the Exchequer](#), selections assigned in section  
Gerald of Wales, *History and Topography of Ireland*
- Sept. 29-Oct. 3 The Church; Rural Life
- Lehmberg ch 6  
Documents on Thomas Becket:  
[Roger of Hoveden, \*Chronicle\*](#)  
[William of Newburgh](#), selections  
[Gervase of Canterbury](#), selections (more [here](#))  
[Edward Grim](#)
- Documents on Rural Life:  
[Domesday book](#)  
[Court rolls of Brightwaltham](#)

[Court rolls of Bec, 1246](#), also [1248](#), [1249](#), [1275](#), [1280](#)  
 selections assigned in section  
[Court rolls of Wakefield](#), selections assigned in section

Oct 6-10: Law and Parliament; Family Life

[Bracton, \*On the Laws and Customs of England\*](#), selections assigned  
 in section  
 McSheffrey, *Love and Marriage in Late Medieval London*  
*Paston Letters*, 18-22, 33-41, 44-45, 135-136, 148-155. (CP)

Oct 13-17: Towns and Trade

Lehmberg ch 5  
[Charter for the Jews](#)  
 William FitzStephen, *Description of London*  
[Case of John Rykener](#)  
 H.T. Riley, *Memorials of London and London Life*, pp. 3-17, 33-  
 37, 77-91, 149-151, 156-165, 229-231, 253-58, 267-70  
 (CP)

Oct. 20-24: The Black Death

MIDTERM EXAM OCT. 23

[R.B. Dobson, \*The Peasants' Revolt\*](#), selections assigned in section

Oct. 27-31 War and National Identity; Late Medieval Religion

*William Wallace* (CP)  
 Battle of Agincourt (handout)

Nov 3-7: Religious Change, Continued

Osbern Bokenham, *Life of St. Agnes* (CP)  
[Geoffrey Chaucer, \*The Prioress's Tale\*](#)  
[Book of Margery Kempe, selections](#)  
[Condemnation of Wycliffe](#)  
[Thomas More, \*Utopia\*](#)

- Nov. 10-14: Tudor Government  
NO LECTURE THURSDAY NOV 13  
Lehmberg, ch 7-8  
[John Knox, \*A Vindication of the Opinion that the Sacrifice of the Mass is Idolatry\*](#) , selections assigned in section  
Begin reading Mattingly, *The Armada*
- Nov. 17-21: Cultural and Demographic Change  
Lehmberg, ch 12  
Mattingly, *The Armada*
- Nov. 24-26: Beginnings of Colonialism  
Lehmberg, ch 12  
[Diary of Ralph Josselin](#), selections assigned in section
- Dec. 1-5: Revolution  
Lehmberg, ch 10-11  
Leveller Documents (selections assigned in section):  
[Putney Debate](#)  
[Overton, \*An Arrow Against All Tyrants\*](#)  
[Lilburne, \*England's New Chains Discovered\*](#)  
[An Agreement of the Free People of England](#)
- Dec. 8-10: Culture and Science; European Expansion  
Fynes Moryson, *An Itinerary* (CP)  
[Walter Raleigh, \*Discovery of Guiana\*](#)  
[Richard Eden, \*Decades of the New World\*](#)
- Dec. 18 FINAL EXAMINATION 8:00-10:00 A.M.