

England to 1688

HIS 373.01

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Spring 2010

History 373.01: Petty 303, MW 2:00-3:15

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Course Description: History 373 explores the origins and evolution of English culture and English constitution from Julius Cesar's conquest in 55 up to the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688. This period, which saw important developments in constitutional government, seminal works of literature, the beginnings of science, and the exploration and colonization of the New World, is among the most dynamic and transformative of western history. It saw the rise of England from a small, remote outpost of the Roman Empire to the dominant power of the Western world. Its thinkers produced some of the most enduring literature, political writing, and social theory of the English language. This course will provide an overview of medieval, renaissance, and early modern English society, the important events and people, and the contributions the period made to modern thought. The first half of the semester will focus on the pre-modern period (55-1485) while the second half will concentrate on the early modern period, the reigns of the Tudors and the Stuarts.

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to give students a general overview of the history, society, and culture of pre-modern and early modern England, one which will help them develop a deeper understanding of the constitutional documents, literature, art, and ideas from the period--whether the Magna Carta, *Beowulf*, or the works of Shakespeare, Milton, John Locke, or Issac Newton. This class should also help students develop their ability to think historically, to understand how history is interpreted and shaped by historians, and to encourage them to engage with historical works and documents. Students should take away not just facts, but also the skills to think critically and actively engage with the past.

Required Texts:

C. Warren Hollister, Robert C. Stacey, Robin Chapman Stacey, *The Making of England to 1399*, 8th edition. Wadsworth Publishing, ISBN-10: 0618001018 ISBN-13: 978-0618001019

Robert Bucholz and Newton Key, *Early Modern England 1485-1714: A Narrative*

History, 2nd edition. Wiley-Blackwell, ISBN 978-1-4051-6275-3

These texts will be supplemented by readings on Blackboard. You are responsible for the assigned readings as well as the material covered in class.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Student's grades will be based upon the following:

- 25% Average of 3 Paper Grades
- 20% Average of Unit Tests
- 20% Midterm Examination
- 25% Final Examination
- 10% Attendance and Participation

The papers will be three to five pages in length, written upon a question given in advance and due at the beginning of class, in hard copy, on the given date. Please, no email submissions. Late work will not be accepted unless a prior extension has been granted.

All work to be turned in should be doubled spaced, in 12 point font, Times New Roman or similar, with reasonable margins and proper citations (CMS or Turabian). I will observe and enforce the University's Academic Integrity Policy:

<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

Participation is dependant upon being in class meetings, being prepared (including being ready to talk about supplemental readings in class) and engaging in class activities and discussions. Missing more than three class meetings will adversely impact the student's participation, unless the absence has prior approval--each additional absence will subtract 5 points from the participation grade. If you miss over half of our class meetings, you will be dropped from the class; see the policy at:

<http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Catalog/current/AcaRegs/ClassAttendance.html>

Being engaged in class, even if the class is a lecture, requires active attention. Cell phones and mp3 players should be turned OFF, and laptops are only allowed for purposes of note taking. If you are caught texting, playing games, browsing the web, talking, sleeping, reading the newspaper, doing the crossword, or any other activities during the class period, you will be asked to leave, and it WILL count as one of your absences.