

- Persuasion

Course Description

This course follows the transformations of English identity from the Roman withdrawal from Britain in 410 CE to about the middle of the 14th century. We will look at the history of institutions, such as the Monarchy or Parliament, aspects of daily life in different strata of society, gender, education, religion, literary culture, and art and architecture. We will work with a variety of primary sources, including chronicles, law codes, charters, chivalric romances, and biographies.

Course Objectives

Students will gain an understanding of the development of medieval England: state formation, politics and diplomacy, socio-economic history, religious history, development of various literary and artistic forms. More generally, students will learn to ask relevant questions about medieval history, will become familiar with the different ways in which medieval history has been used and abused in subsequent periods, and will practice working with primary source material in a responsible manner. In preparing for class and completing the required assignments students will improve their critical reading, research, oral communication, and academic writing skills.

Materials

Recommended books (available in digital format @ GaTech library)*

Leyser, Henrietta, [A Short History of the Anglo-Saxons](#), 2019.

Clanchy, M.T., [England and Its Rulers: 1066-1307](#), 2014.

***All required materials are linked on the course calendar under primary source readings. The recommended books (“Background readings” on the course calendar) are optional. If you do not have any background in/previous exposure to medieval history, I recommend keeping up with the background readings. The quizzes listed on the syllabus will not test your mastery of this content (only of primary sources).**

Requirements

Attendance and participation in class discussion. **NB: Assigned primary source readings must be done prior to each class; this is essential to meaningful participation in class discussion. Read carefully through the participation rubric (on Canvas) – 20%**

Quizzes – **30%** (dates listed on the syllabus)

Course portfolio – **20%** (course portfolio will be graded in weeks 1, 2, 4, and 5 – 5% each); the core of the course portfolio is a customized Google map with historical annotations for locations discussed in class readings and lectures (annotations can include reflections on the readings, connections to other things studied in class), as well as places you visited in the UK (or elsewhere) that have historical relevance; the course portfolio should also provide a clear picture of the ways in which you engaged with the history of Medieval England in any particular week – reflections on assigned readings, additional research, site visits, museum visits, etc.

Final exam – **30%** (on 08/07 or 08/08)

Attendance policy

Attendance will be recorded. Students are allowed one unexcused absence and one make-up quiz. Beyond that, there will be a 5% deduction from the final grade for every unexcused absence.

Absences due to personal travel complications will not be excused.

Course Schedule

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topic</i>	<i>Primary Source Readings</i>	<i>Background Readings</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
Week 1					
Tuesday	06/30	Introduction			
Wednesday	07/01	Romain Britain	<p>Tacitus on Boudicca: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/warwickclassicsnetwork/romancoentry/resources/boudica/sources/tacitus/</p> <p>Cassius Dio on Boudicca https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/warwickclassicsnetwork/romancoentry/resources/boudica/sources/cassiusdio/</p>		
Thursday	07/02	Anglo-Saxons and Anglo-Saxonism	<p>Gildas, On the Ruin of Britain, Preface and Part 1 https://www.tertullian.org</p>	Leyser ch. 1	

			/fathers/gildas_02_ruin_of_britain.htm		
Friday	07/03	Kingship and law in the early Anglo-Saxon kingdoms	Aethelbeht's Law Code http://www.law.harvard.edu/faculty/cdonahue/courses/lhsemelh/materials/Mats2D_2F.pdf Laws only, not the essay – up to page II-37	Leyser ch. 2	Quiz 1 (on readings from 07/02, 07/03, and 07/04)
Week 2					
Monday	07/06	Religion in the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms	Bede, Book 1, 23-26; Book 2, 9-14 https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/bede-book1.asp https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/bede-book2.asp	Leyser ch. 3	
Tuesday	07/07	Vikings 1	Alcuin of York, Letter to Higbald https://web.archive.org/web/20170506102223/https://classesv2.yale.edu/access	Vikings live from British museum	Quiz 2 (on readings from 07/07 and 07/08)

			/content/user/haw6/Vikings/higbald.html Life of Saint Findan https://celt.ucc.ie/published/T201041.html Abbo of Fleury: The Martyrdom of St. Edmund, King of East Anglia, 870 https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/870abbo-edmund.asp		
Wednesday	07/08	Rise of Wessex	Asser, Life of King Alfred excerpts (Canvas)	Leyser ch. 5	
Thursday	07/09	10th Century Culture	Ælfric's <i>Colloquy</i> (Canvas, read p. 118-126 in document) Egbert's <i>Confessional</i> (Canvas) Bald's Leechbook (Canvas)	Leyser ch. 6	Quiz 3 (on readings from 07/09 and 07/10)
Week 3					
Monday	07/13	Vikings 2	Battle of Maldon https://oldenglishpoetry.ca	Leyser ch. 7	

			mden.rutgers.edu/battle-of-maldon/ Wulfstan, Sermon of the Wolf to the English https://pressbooks.pub/earlybritishlit/chapter/wulfstan-sermon-of-the-wolf-to-the-english/		
Tuesday	07/14	Danish Conquest	Cnut's Invasion of England in 1015-16, according to the Knytlinga Saga https://deremilitari.org/2013/09/knuts-invasion-of-england-in-1015-16-according-to-the-knytlinga-saga/		
Wednesday	07/15	History of Science Museum tour			
Thursday	07/16	Anglo-Saxon Society to the Eve of the Norman Conquest	Encomium of Queen Emma https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1053economiemmareginae.asp	Leyser ch 8	Quiz 4 (on readings from 07/14, 07/15, and 07/17)
Week 4					

Monday	07/20	The Norman Conquest	Documents on the Norman Conquest (Canvas)	Clanchy intro to part 1 and ch. 2, 23-35	
Tuesday	07/21	Administration; Anglo-Norman society	Anglo Saxon Chronicle on William I (Canvas) Orderic Vitalis, Ecclesiastical History, on William's death (Canvas)	Clanchy ch. 2, 35-45	
Wednesday	07/22	Henry I; the Anarchy	Orderic Vitalis on the death of William Rufus; Orderic Vitalis on Henry I & beginning of Anarchy (Canvas)	Clanchy ch. 3, 47-64 and ch. 6, 106-113	Quiz 5 (on readings from 07/21, 07/22, and 07/23)
Thursday	07/23	Henry II; the Angevin Empire	Constitutions of Clarendon https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/cclarendon.asp Edward Grim on the murder of Thomas Becket https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/grim-becket.asp	Clanchy, ch. 6, 113-120 and ch. 7, 125-139.	
Week 5					

Monday	07/27	Richard the Lionheart and the Crusades	<p>William of Newburgh, History, Book IV, Chapters 1, 7-11, 31, 33-34, 40-42 https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/williamofnewburgh-four.asp</p> <p>Itinerarium Peregrinorum et Gesta Regis Ricardi: The Siege and Capture of Acre, 1191 https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1191acre.asp</p> <p>The Annals of Roger of Hoveden on The Battle of Gisors, 1198 https://deremilitari.org/2014/03/the-battle-of-gisors-1198-according-to-roger-of-hoveden/</p>	Clanchy, ch. 6, 120-124	
Tuesday	07/28	Angevin society	<p>Andreas Capellanus, Excerpts from <i>De amore</i> https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/de-amore-1184-86-treatise-courtly-love-excerpts</p>	Clanchy, ch. 8, 140-154 and ch. 10, 182-197	Quiz 6 (on readings from 07/28 and 07/29)

			<p>Lais of Marie de France (choose 1)</p> <p>https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/chaitivel.pdf</p> <p>https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/equitant.pdf</p> <p>https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/lanval.pdf</p> <p>https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/chevrefoil.pdf</p>		
Wednesday	07/29	John Lackland/Magna Carta	<p>Magna Carta</p> <p>https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/magna-carta/british-library-magna-carta-1215-runnymede/</p>	Clanchy, ch. 11, 203-214	
Thursday	07/30	Henry III	<p>Matthew of Westminster, Simon de Montfort's Rebellion, 1265</p> <p>https://origin.rh.web.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/matt-west1.asp</p>	Clanchy, ch. 11, 214-222 and ch. 12, 223-247, ch. 13	Quiz 7 (on readings from 07/30 and 07/31)

			<p>Letters of Eleanor of Provence:</p> <p>https://epistolae.ctl.columbia.edu/letter/647.html</p> <p>https://epistolae.ctl.columbia.edu/letter/648.html</p> <p>https://epistolae.ctl.columbia.edu/letter/649.html</p>		
Week 6					
Monday	08/03	Ashmolean Museum visit			
Tuesday	08/04	Edward I	<p>Walter of Guisborough on the Little War of Chalons (Canvas)</p> <p>Gerald of Wales on King Arthur's tomb: https://d.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/text/gerald-of-wales-arthurs-tomb</p>	Clanchy, ch. 16, 304-328	
Wednesday	08/05	Late medieval society: religious "deviants"	Fourth Lateran Council Canons (Canvas)		

			Excerpts on Jews in Medieval England (Canvas)		
Thursday	08/06	Education	Statutes of University College, Oxford (Canvas) Town vs. gown readings (Canvas)		

Grading scale

90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 0-59=F

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech [Academic Honor Code](#) . **Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. According to our Academic Honor Code, plagiarism is the “submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating the authorship.” Use of AI-generated content without proper attribution will be treated as plagiarism. The penalty for plagiarism will be a “0” grade for the assignment/test in question. A repeat offense will result in a failing grade for the course. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity ([see process here](#)).**

Accommodations

Support for students with disabilities: Please discuss your ODS-approved accommodations with me at the beginning of the course so we can plan appropriately.

Student/Faculty Conduct

Please refer to the [Georgia Tech Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement](#).