

MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY
Baldwin Online/ Adult Program

BRITISH HISTORY TO 1688
HISTORY 241 L
Fall 2018

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Please read this syllabus carefully. Almost all the information you need for the course is here, with the exception of the paper title, and the final exam questions, which will be posted on the Blackboard site. Most of the questions which I am asked may be answered by consulting this syllabus. If that is not the case, please feel free to email me. The last date for turning in assignments, including the final exam, is December 14, 2018. There can be no exceptions. The fall semester finishes just as the holiday season begins. Please plan and work accordingly. I cannot extend deadlines beyond the official MBU ones, as I am required to adhere to these too. I will not grant ETs if you have not completed at least half of the journal requirements and the first chapter summary.

Required Reading

The Making of England: 55BC to 1399, 8th edition or later, C. Warren Hollister, ed., published by Houghton Mifflin Co. ISBN 978-0618001019

This Realm of England: 1399 to 1688, 8th edition or later, Lacey B. Smith, ed., published by Houghton Mifflin Co. ISBN 978-0618001026

Growing Up in Medieval London, Barbara Hanawalt. Oxford University Press. 1993. Any edition. ISBN 978-0-19-509384-1

Or

The Ties that Bound: Peasant Families in Medieval England, Barbara Hanawalt. Oxford University Press. 1986. Any edition. ISBN 978-0-19-5045624

Course Content and Goals

This 200-level course provides a detailed introduction to the history of Britain, from pre-Roman times to the “Glorious Revolution”, a peaceful transfer of power which confirmed constitutional limits on the monarchy, and re-affirmed the English Reformation. It is helpful but not required to have some background in European history, such as a course in Western Civilization, to help you understand some of the concepts contained in British history. The course involves a lot of

reading. Most students find the two textbooks (by Warren Hollister and Lacey Baldwin Smith) useful and accessible, with maps, paintings and photographs of historical artifacts. The third book you will read is either of the listed books by social historian Barbara Hanawalt. You may choose whether to look at childhood in London, or peasant families in medieval England. Some of the topics covered include:

1. Early Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions
2. Development of royal administration after the Norman Conquest
3. Social issues, such as feudalism, the roles of women, landholders, merchants
4. Struggles between parliament and monarch
5. Religious and popular disturbances
6. English Reformation under Henry VIII
7. English Civil War
8. Glorious Revolution

Course Requirements

Journal

You will compile a “journal” based on each of the chapters in the two main texts for the course. Each journal entry (one per chapter) should be a minimum of two paragraphs long but no longer than one and one half pages. A paragraph should have a minimum of three sentences. Journal entries should be double spaced, with standard margins. Each journal entry should focus on two or three aspects of the chapter which interested **you** most. These journal entries should be presented in good, grammatically correct English, but may also include comments of your own such your opinion, or comparisons with modern day or other events in history. You may use the personal pronoun (“I”) when writing journal entries, but not when writing chapter summaries or the Term paper, or the final exam.

The purpose of this assignment is not to re-write the two textbooks in your own words, but to point up whichever issues in each chapter interest you. Your journal may be used as a resource later to remind you of what you were reading in British history, what interested you the most (and why) and where you saw connections with other events, both in the past and today.

Please do not make statements without accompanying evidence. For example, you should not say, “The Anglo Saxon kings were useless when it came to defending themselves against the Vikings” but you could say, “The divisions within each kingdom caused the Anglo Saxon kings to be ineffective in the defense of their kingdoms when the Vikings invaded”. Do you see the difference? In the same way, if you find something interesting, do not tell me that it is “interesting”, but tell me *why it is in your opinion interesting by providing additional explanation in your writing.*

You are not given a journal grade until you have completed all the entries, but I give you an approximate grade level and constructive criticism on each group of journal entries which you submit. **Journal entries are not mini-chapter summaries – they are intended to highlight**

only two or three particular issues in each chapter which were interesting or noteworthy, in your opinion.

You will submit between three and five journals at a time to the Blackboard site.

The journal assignment is worth 40% of your overall grade.

Chapter Summaries

You will also write two detailed chapter summaries on any two chapters which particularly interest you. These should be between 5 and 6 pages in length, double-spaced, typewritten and with standard margins. You need to write one chapter summary from the first textbook (Hollister) and the other from the second textbook (Baldwin Smith). These are worth 20% of the overall grade. (2 x 10 = 20%)

Term Paper

The paper in this course is based either on Growing Up in Medieval London, or The Ties that Bound :Peasant Families in Medieval England and will focus on issues of social history and ordinary people, their work, relationships and societal expectations. It should be between 6 and 8 pages in length. A more detailed explanation of this paper will be available on the class Blackboard site. The paper is worth 20% .

Final Exam

The final examination consists of two closed book essays, one of which will be cumulative and thematic, going across the whole breadth of the course, and the other will be more focused on one specific time period, movement or event. The essay topics on the final exam will be based on a wide choice. **The exam questions you answer should not be on the same topics as the chapter summaries which you write.** The final exam is worth 20%.

The distribution of points will be as follows:

Journal (based on short entries for all textbook chapters)	1 x 40 = 40 points
Two chapter summaries	2 x 10 = 20 points
Paper on one book by Barbara Hanawalt	1 x 20 = 20 points
Final examination	1 x 20 = 20 points

Due Dates and Schedule for Completion

While I understand that many Baldwin Online/ Adult students have work and family responsibilities, I ask that you follow the schedule for completion of all the assignments. It is designed to help you organize your time and complete the course successfully. If you get behind or need a little extra time, **please email me.** I cannot extend the last deadline, which is December 14th at 11:59 pm.

Journal Deadlines – begin with this and you should be reading at least two chapters of the textbook(s) a week. The Blackboard site will direct you to submit journal entries in batches of five or so at a time.

In order to get started and provide some feedback, I require that the first journal entry be submitted by September 14. This is to comply with Federal Financial Aid requirements, which necessitate that instructors are able to document a good faith start has been made on the course by their students. I am required to report to MBU if a student has not made progress on starting the course.

Due dates for journal entries

September 14 Submit first journal entry.

September 25 Re-submit first journal entry, along with next three journal entries. (This allows me to see if you have adopted any of my suggestions on the first journal entry). I will then give you an approximate grade level on this group of four journal entries. (Chapters 1 – 4, Hollister).

October 16 Submit by this date the next three journal entries (Chapters 5-7, Hollister)

October 31 Submit next five journal entries (Chapters 8-12, Hollister)

November 13 Submit first three journal entries from L.B. Smith (Chapters 1-3, Smith)

November 20 (**Remember this is leading up to Thanksgiving, so you need to try to get ahead here if possible**) Submit next four journal entries (Chapters 4- 8, Smith)

November 30 Submit two additional journal entries (Chapters 9-10, Smith)

December 8 Submit remaining journal entries from Smith textbook

This is the suggested schedule for due dates for the journals. As you can see, by looking at the due dates for other assignments, such as the chapter summaries, it still makes November a busy month. If you can get ahead in your reading, you may submit assignments early, and it would help you to have a little extra time to be sure to complete the course. *The option to submit assignments early is always available, and may be your best guarantee of completing the course in a timely fashion.*

Chapter Summaries

When you reach a chapter you particularly enjoy (one from each textbook – Hollister and Baldwin Smith) work on writing a summary of that information in your own words. **Remember not to plagiarize – it must be in your own words.** Each chapter summary should be between 5 and 6 pages, double spaced.

Due dates for chapter summaries

October 9 First chapter summary due, based on a chapter from Hollister's book

November 16 Second chapter summary due, based on a chapter from Baldwin Smith's book

Each chapter summary (there are two required) will be worth 10% of your overall grade.

Paper on one of two listed books by historian Barbara Hanawalt

It makes most sense to read the book when you have reached the relevant time period in the secondary text (Hollister) so you have some background on the issues. You will need to take some time to read your choice of one of the two books written by Barbara Hanawalt listed in the required reading, and write the paper. In order not to get behind with your reading of the two textbooks (Hollister and Lacey Baldwin Smith) either read ahead, before doing the paper, or plan on some intensive reading of the textbooks with more than two chapters a week, once you have written the paper. The specific title for this paper, which should be between 6 and 8 pages, double spaced, will be posted on the class Blackboard site. (See below for due date)

Due Date for Hanawalt Paper (20% of the overall grade)
November 6th

Final Exam

This will be posted on the Blackboard site. I will also send you all an email containing the final exam. It is fine to look at it ahead of time, as it is a prepared closed book exam, and will have two essays on it. One will be a cumulative essay, which covers a theme present throughout the whole course, such as the relationship between the king and the parliament, or the development of the law, or the commerce and economy of England, and the other question will be more focused, concentrating on a particular monarch, or the Reformation, or the plague years of the 14th century. There will be a wide selection of essay questions from which to choose. You will choose the two essays on which you want to write, read and prepare them and then write them closed book, under Mary Baldwin University Honor Code conditions. **You should not choose topics on your final exam on which you have already written a chapter summary. Please plan accordingly.**

The final exam will be worth 20% of your overall grade.

All work must be completed and turned in to me by 11:59 pm on December 14th. I have to keep to deadlines in order to get assignments grades and grades posted on time.

If you need an ET, you must communicate with your advisor by this date. It is a two part process, requiring both my permission and your advisor to complete the paperwork, so please bear this in mind. It is much better to do this ahead of time, than leave it to the December 14th deadline.

Communication

I generally check my email twice a day. I do not check my email on Sundays. If you have any quick questions which need an immediate answer, please use the phone number at the top of the syllabus. For all other inquiries, please use email. You may call between 9 am and 9 pm, Monday through Saturday. Please do not call on Sundays. If you have to leave a voice mail, please do not forget to include a contact number. I try to return all calls as quickly as possible. My communication to you will also be in the form of helpful comments and constructive criticism on your graded written work.

Grading Policy

Grades are based on accurate and comprehensive presentation of historical material, good writing, attention to analysis and answering the question (in the case of the papers and the final examination). I try to include helpful, constructive criticism on each piece of work returned, as well as a grade, so that students may learn from the process, and incorporate suggestions into their next assignment. Final examinations are graded without comments.

Turning in assignments

Please use the schedule posted on the class Blackboard site. If you cannot meet a deadline for a particular assignment, please communicate with me. I grade and offer constructive criticism/comments with each assignment, so long as they are on time.

Late assignments will be graded without comments, partly because of time issues but also because at this point, you will be unable to act on any constructive criticism. Most students are disappointed with their grade when they turn in a lot of late assignments at the same time.

ET Policy

In order to permit an ET, I require that at least half of the journal assignments and one of the two chapter summaries be completed. Generally speaking, I am calm and understanding about granting ET's, although you must have complied with the conditions above. If you decide to apply for an ET, it is your responsibility to communicate with your advisor, who will need to process the paperwork and will need my permission for you to have an ET, should you decide to request one.

No-one wants to pay for an ET so close to holiday time, so please bear this in mind and plan accordingly. The last date by which you can request an ET, and ask your advisor to process it is December 14th, but I strongly advise that you do not leave it until the last minute if you need an ET.

Please remember...

All academic work is covered by the Mary Baldwin University Honor code. All email communication must be done through your MBU email. The assignments and syllabus will be posted on our class Blackboard site.

Kate Franzen
Updated June 18, 2018 for Fall Semester 2018

