

LATER MEDIEVAL LONDON: COMMUNITY, POLITICS, AND RELIGION, 1450-1560

PROGRAMME and ESSAY LIST

2010-11

Course tutor:

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Office hours: Wednesday 5.00 - 5.45 preferably by appointment; at other times by arrangement.

The class will meet on Wednesdays at 6.00



London c. 1497, Wynkyn de Worde

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1. Course description
2. Programme
3. Essay list
4. General bibliography
5. Set Texts and original sources for London History, 1450-1560.

This course focuses on the city of London at the end of the middle ages when national tensions were reflected in city politics. It traces the changing relationship between the city's government and inhabitants and the Yorkist and early Tudor state and studies the impact of the Reformation on London's social cohesion and the unity of its leaders. It examines the formation of groupings within the city to express common social, religious or economic interests, and investigates their relationship with the city's rulers. The documentary sources chosen for study, which highlight the problems of identifying 'community' and 'interest', include the fifteenth-century 'London chronicles'; the records of the greater city companies and of parish, guild and fraternity associations; and contemporary wills.

Learning outcomes include enhanced knowledge of the subject, with a broad understanding of themes and events in the history of London over this period. Students will learn about the historiography of medieval London and will explore selected primary sources and the problems of interpretation they pose. They will consider historical evidence and learn how to evaluate it in context, and through essay-writing and oral presentations and discussions will develop their skills of argument and synthesis of information

This course is taught weekly over 2 terms, by means of informal lectures and seminars. It will meet on Wednesdays 6.00-800 p.m. Check the noticeboard for the room number. The first meeting will be on Wednesday October 13.

Xerox copies of the 'set texts' (3 vols. of xeroxes) will be available after the start of the course (returnable at the end of the course); they will not be needed until the beginning of November. Please bring the appropriate volume to each class.



The woodcut map of London, based on an original of c. 1558-60

AUTUMN TERM 2010

Introduction, context and sources

1. 13 October Introduction to later medieval London: London government, structures of authority and participation
2. 20 October Demography, household and family; ideas of 'community' and the construction of 'identity'
3. 27 October Written sources 1: language and literacy in 15th- and 16th- century London. **NB this class will be held in one of the computer labs – check for details**
4. 3 November Written sources 2. introduction to the study of original sources, and the set texts for the course; 'gobbets'. **NB this class will be held in one of the computer labs – check for details.**

The parish and religious life

5. 10 November The church as an institution: patronage, discipline, visitation, the church courts and the clergy. BRING Set texts vol. 3. Parochial communities
6. 17 November The organization of parochial life; parish life in St Mary at Hill and St Michael Cornhill. Presentations on each of the parishes. BRING Set texts vol. 3. Parochial communities
7. 24 November Belief and observance: parish fraternities, chantries and commemoration. Presentations on parish fraternities and chantries. BRING Set texts vol. 3. Parochial communities
8. 1 December Wills as historical sources. Presentations on wills and willmakers. BRING Set texts vol. 3. Parochial communities; ALSO *London Consistory court wills* if you have a copy
9. 8 December The Reformation, 1: the political programme; dissent, and early Protestantism. Presentations on Lollards and heresy; the bishops of London. BRING set texts vol. 1: Chronicles

NB that the deadline date for Autumn term essays is Monday 13 December, 6pm

10. 15 December The Reformation, 2: implementation and the impact on the people. Discussion: St Michael Cornhill, 1548-59 BRING Set texts vol. 3. Parochial communities

SPRING TERM 2011

The civic community: guilds, companies, and citizenship

11. 12 January The craft guilds and companies as communities. Presentations on: celebration and commensality
BRING Set texts vol. 2. City government and the city companies
12. 19 January The guilds as agents of government. Presentation on: the discipline of members
BRING Set texts vol. 2. City government and the city companies
13. 26 January The mercantile guilds and the ruling class of London. Presentations on: London's Aldermen BRING Set texts vol. 2. City government and the city companies

14. 2 February London's overseas trade, 1450-1560. Presentations on: the Merchant Adventurers' activities as seen in the Mercers' Acts of Court BRING Set texts vol. 2. City government and the city companies

15. 9 February Aliens and immigrants. Presentations on: anti-alien feeling and disturbances BRING Set texts vol. 1: Chronicles; Set texts vol. 2. City government and the city companies

London's history: citizens and chronicles

16. 16 February The London chronicles. Presentations on: the authors BRING Set texts vol. 1: Chronicles

NB NO CLASS ON 23 FEBRUARY

17. 2 March Civic ceremonial and communal celebration. Presentations on: royal entries to London BRING Set texts vol. 1: Chronicles

18. 9 March The Wars of the Roses. Presentations on: chronicle accounts to 1480 BRING Set texts vol. 1: Chronicles

19. 16 March The Tudor monarchy. Presentations on: chronicle accounts of 1480-1520 BRING Set texts vol. 1: Chronicles

20. 23 March Outside the city: Westminster, Southwark and the suburbs. Review of course

NB that the deadline date for Spring term essays is Thursday 24 March, 6pm

SUMMER TERM 2011

27 April, 4 May TBC Revision and exam practice: textual commentary ('gobbets')

ESSAYS

BA History and BA History and Archaeology students *must write at least two essays this year for each course*. These together contribute to the final assessment for the course. Failure to complete two essays for each course will significantly reduce that mark. There will also be takeaway 'gobbet practice' in the summer term, but these marks will not count.

The deadline date for the FIRST essay (from List 1) is Mon., 13 December, 6pm.

The date for the SECOND essay (from List 2) is Thurs., 24 March, 6pm.

Late submission will be penalised. Under the Common Award Structure (CAS), individual tutors are not permitted to grant an extension of the essay deadline. For details of the School's policy on late submission, see the BA handbook or the website, but briefly, if you are obliged to submit your essay late but wish the School to consider extenuating circumstances (such as illness), you will need also to submit appropriate documentation. A committee will consider the evidence and may remit the late submission penalty.

All students are required to submit **two** hard copies and **one** electronic copy of every piece of assessed work. Assessed work must be submitted to the Office, **not** to your tutor. Your essay is deemed to have been submitted when the Office receives a hard copy: submission of electronic copies only will not be accepted.

Electronic copies must be submitted to: basubmissions@history.bbk.ac.uk

Your essay may be submitted to the Plagiarism Detection Service. Random spot-checks will be carried out during the academic year.

Every essay **must** have an 'Academic Declaration' form signed by you. Pick one up from the Office or download it from the Department website at:

<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/hca/current/undergraduateresources/baessayresources>

(under 'essay cover sheet').

NOTES ON ESSAY WRITING

Essays should be about 2500 - 3000 words long

PLEASE:

- write on one side of the paper only
- type if you can; otherwise write clearly and legibly
- leave a decent margin for comments and notes
- attach a bibliography - a full list of all the books and articles you have used in writing the essay

BIBLIOGRAPHY, FOOTNOTES AND SOURCE CITATION

You should put a footnote in the text to any direct quotation from a book, article or source, and, usually, to any figures or numbers, unless they can be considered common knowledge. This should have the page number/s on which the quotation can be found, as well as all the other

details. You should however avoid copying or paraphrasing long passages from any secondary work: with citation this is laziness, without it, it's plagiarism! For a full statement of the School and College policy on plagiarism, which is a very serious examination offence, please see the BA Handbook or the College website.

You should list at the end of the essay, under the heading 'Bibliography', all the books and articles you have used, whether or not you made any direct reference to them in your discussion.

You should list printed works in the following form (use the booklist for guidance):

- A.N.Author, *Title of the book underlined* (place of publication, date of publication, in brackets), page or chapter if necessary
- *Title of printed source underlined*, edited by A.N.Editor (place of publication or publication series as appropriate, volume number if appropriate, date of publication, in brackets), page number/s if necessary.
- A.N.Author, 'Title of article, in inverted commas', in *Title of Journal underlined*, volume number (year of publication, in brackets), page number/s if necessary.
- A.N.Author, 'Title of article or chapter, in inverted commas', in *Title of collection of essays underlined*, edited by A.N.Editor and A.N. Other (place of publication, date of publication in brackets), page number/s if necessary.

For online sources, the correct form depends on whether it is a printed item that has been put online, or an original web-based source. For the first, list its full print title, in the form above, and add the URL and the date at which you accessed it. For the latter, give the website title, if any, the URL, and the date at which you accessed it. E.g.:

- *Calendar of Letter-books of the City of London: Letter-book L, Edward IV- Henry VII*, ed. R.R.Sharpe (1912), pp. 199-210: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=33657>, accessed 1 July 2010
- *A London Provisioner's Chronicle, 1550-1563, by Henry Machyn: Manuscript, Transcription, and Modernization*. Created by Richard W. Bailey, Marilyn Miller, and Colette Moore. Entry for 1559-01-02. <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/machyn/>, accessed 1 July 2010

For footnotes, if you refer to a book or source more than once, you can use the author's name and a short title the second and subsequent times.

This may seem tedious now, but it will be useful to get into practice for your dissertation and learning how to cite and reference properly is part of the training! The important point is that your information should be traceable and verifiable.

Note that answers should be focused on LONDON, and, unless a different period is specified, on the period 1450-1560. Use quotations from the 'set texts' to illustrate and enliven your answers, where appropriate.

ESSAY LIST 1 (submission deadline date Mon., 13 December, 6pm)

- How well can we reconstruct the physical framework of life in London in this period?
- Were the London parishes flourishing 'communities' up to the Reformation?
- How important were chantries and parish fraternities in the devotions of medieval Londoners?
- Did tithe disputes between clergy and laity seriously undermine the standing of the church?
- What can wills tell us about Londoners' attitudes to death in the later middle ages?
- Did Londoners welcome the doctrinal changes of the Reformation?
- How adequate was provision for the sick, insane and elderly in pre-Reformation London?
- In what ways was later medieval London a literate society?

ESSAY LIST 2 (submission deadline date Thurs., 24 March, 6pm)

- What role did apprenticeship play in urban society in this period?
- What were the principal concerns and functions of the craft-based City Companies in the period 1450-1560?
- Why did the mercantile Companies dominate city government?
- How were conflicts of economic interest resolved in later medieval London?
- Why were town governments concerned to regulate the activity of the markets?
- In whose interests was later medieval London governed?
- In what ways did London's suburbs differ from the city?
- Did women have an important economic role in medieval London?
- Why were Londoners hostile to alien visitors and residents?
- What were the main preoccupations of Londoners in their dealings with the Crown between 1450 and 1530?
- How important was London in 'king-making' between 1450 and 1500?
- What are the drawbacks of the 'London Chronicles' as an historical source for the period 1450-1520?
- What role did civic ceremony play in Tudor London [to 1560]?

EXAMS

The course is examined by means of one three-hour examination in May/June 2011. You must answer three questions, including the compulsory first question, which asks you to comment on three extracts ('gobbets') from the set texts. The other two answers are in conventional essay form. All three answers carry equal weight. There is a choice of extracts on which to comment, and a choice of essay questions.

Exam papers from previous years are available via Birkbeck's e-Library. Note that this course is taught in alternate years, so the last exam paper is 2009. Note also that the content and emphasis of the syllabus may change from year to year; you will be examined on the subjects taught in 2010-11.