The Venerable Bede sharpening his quill pen, from a codex at Engelberg Abbey, Switzerland.

Course Handbook

Course Co-ordinator: Professor Terry Barry
Welcome to this new course in Senior Freshmen (2\textsuperscript{nd}) year. There will be two lectures throughout the Semester, and one tutorial per week for seven weeks. There will be no lectures or tutorials in ‘Reading Week’ 27\textsuperscript{th} February-2\textsuperscript{nd} March 2012.

Lectures are THUR 2-3 pm Room 5025.

FRI 2-3 pm Room 4047.

Course Aims:

This course strives to give you an outline understanding of the major developments in politics and society in Britain between the end of Roman Rule and the start of the new millennium.

Outcomes:

• Allow you to understand the broad chronology of the period.
• Allow you to analyse the relevant literature.
• Allow you also to realise the importance of key contemporary texts in translation.

Lectures:

1. Introduction to the course (TBB)
2. Structure of Roman Britain (TBB)
3. Collapse of Roman Britain (TBB)
4. Background to the Anglo-Saxon invasions of Britain (TBB)
5. Anglo-Saxon Settlements (TBB)
7. The conversion of England: Paulinus and Northumbria (TBB)
8. Anglo-Saxon society and the Law Codes (TBB)
9. Anglo-Saxon art and archaeology (TBB)
10. The politics of the early Anglo-Saxon kingdoms (TBB)
11. The politics of the middle Anglo-Saxon kingdoms (TBB)
12. The “Golden Age” of Northumbria (TBB)
13. Bede and Northumbria (TBB)
14. Anglo-Saxon England during the Mercian hegemony (TBB)
15. The Rise of Wessex (TBB)
16. Viking expansion in Western Europe (TBB)
17. The Viking invasions of England (TBB)
18. The Viking settlement of England (TBB)
19. The Viking impact on Ireland (TBB)
20. Society and Government in late Anglo-Saxon England (TBB)
21. Anglo-Saxon kingship (TBB)
22. Monastic reform in 10th century England (TBB)

ESSAY QUESTIONS
1. What traces of Roman influence were still to be found in Britain in the fifth century?
2. Assess the importance of St Augustine in bringing Christianity to England.
3. Why is the Sutton Hoo ship burial so important for our understanding of the Anglian Kingdom of the 7th century?
4. Discuss the external influences on the Golden Age of Northumbria.
5. How did the kingdom of Wessex survive the Viking onslaught?
6. Critically analyse the contribution of Benedictine monasticism to the late Anglo-Saxon Church.

Bibliography

General Books


E. James, Europe’s *Barbarian’s AD 200-600* (2009).


D. Whitelock, *Beginnings of English Society*

D. Whitelock (ed.), *English Historical Documents vol. I* (500-1042)


Specific Topics


Maurice Barley and R.W. C. Hanson (eds.), *Christianity in Britain, 300-700* (1968).


Wendy Davies (ed.), *From the Vikings to the Normans, 800-1100* (2009)


[http://www.suttonhoo.org/archaeology.htm](http://www.suttonhoo.org/archaeology.htm)


Edward Gibbons, *The history of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire* (1776–81).


Specific Topics II


Tutorials:

1. The end of Roman rule: Gildas
2. The coming of Christianity: Bede and Letters of Gregory
3. Beowulf
4. Asser and Alfred
5. The Viking Invasion: Battle of Maldon
6. The Burghal Hidage.
7. Wulfstan’s *Institutes of Polity*.

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