

Rhodes College  
History 103  
Introduction to Historical Investigation  
**The Impact of the Norman Conquest**  
Spring 2001

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Hours: MW, 2:00 --3:00Office Phone: 843-3586  
T-TH, 9:00<10:30Home Phone: 753-2452

The events immediately following the Norman invasion of England in 1066 still arouse strong feelings among historians. To those who admire William the Conqueror and his Norman followers, the invasion was a revolution that dragged a backward area kicking and screaming into the mainstream of feudal Europe; the result was a transformation of English cultural, military, and economic institutions. For Anglo-Saxon supporters, however, the invasion was a relatively short-lived catastrophe, after which English patterns of land tenure and military organization continued along a well-established path. This course will examine the arguments on both sides of the question and then turn to a unique record of eleventh-century feudal tenures and obligations *Domesday Book* to help resolve the issues.

### **Required Texts**

Chibnall, Marjorie. *The Debate on the Norman Conquest (Issues in Historiography)*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1999.

Howarth, David. *1066: The Year of the Conquest*. New York: Penguin USA, 1977 (reprint).

Morillo, Stephen, ed. *The Battle of Hastings: Sources and Interpretations*. Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 1996.

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

### **Course Requirements**

The first part of the semester will be devoted to a detailed historical examination of the events surrounding the Norman Conquest. During the second half of the semester, each student will work on an individual research project based on the Domesday records of one English shire. These projects will require some use of computers, but they do not

assume any prior knowledge of computer programming. The projects will be designed in class, with the help of the staff of the computer center. Students will be expected to submit a written report of their findings about the impact of the Norman Conquest and to give an oral summary of their conclusions for the rest of the class during the final two weeks of the semester.

Members of the class should familiarize themselves with the resources available to them electronically. This class has its own website, accessible from the Rhodes College homepage's link to the Computer Center. To log in, enter your 5-letter Rhodes ID for both your name and your password. (After Drop/Add, you will be able to change your password to reflect the one assigned to you by the computer center.) Here you will find a list of WebCT courses for which you have enrolled. On the website you will find a copy of this syllabus, a Rhodes calendar, review materials, writing guides, and additional materials that will make your coursework more meaningful. A bulletin board will serve as a 24-hour way for members of the class to communicate with me and with each other. Take time to discover what is available and use it to your own advantage.

Students will be expected to contribute to class discussions and to demonstrate that they have read assigned materials. Attendance is mandatory; if you must miss class because of illness, please notify me immediately, either by phone or by e-mail. You may assume that your final grade in this class will be no higher than the percentage of classes you attend. (This class meets 42 times. If you miss 5 classes, your attendance is 88%, which would be a B+.) Assuming that your attendance is regular, final grades will be based on the following scale:

Participation	15%	
Midterm exam		20%
Oral Report	20%	
Term Paper	25%	
Final Exam	20%	

## **DAILY ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

Week 1: Thinking Like a Historian: Setting out the Problem

Read:

Morillo, "Introduction"

Chibnall, "Introduction"

Topics:

Jan. 10 -- Identifying the Issues

Jan. 12 -- What's the Fuss All About?

Week 2: Normandy and England Before the Conquest

Read:

Howarth, pp. 1-59

Topics:

Jan. 17 -- The Viking Challenge in Normandy

Jan. 19 -- Vikings and the Anglo-Saxon Monarchy

Week 3: The Sources As Evidence

Read:

Morillo, "The Sources," pp. 3-53

Topics:

Jan. 22 -- Williams of Poitiers

Jan. 24 -- William of Jumieges and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Jan. 26 -- Florence and the Carmen de Hastingae

Week 4: The Tapestry As Evidence

Examine:

Bayeux Tapestry, available on the class website or at:

<http://www.english.fsu.edu/bayeux/>

Topics:

Jan. 29 -- The Invasion According to the Tapestry

Jan. 31 -- The Battle of Hastings as Caricature

Feb. 2 -- The Battle of Hastings as Fable

Week 5: The Invasion Campaign

Read:

Howarth, pp. 60-141

Morillo, "The Sources," pp. 3-53; "the Campaign," pp. 130-142.

Topics:

Feb. 5 -- Conflicting Claims

Feb. 7 -- Harold's "coup d'état"

Feb. 9 -- William Sails into Action

Week 6: The Battle of Hastings

Read:

Howarth, 142-200

Morillo, "The Battle," pp. 150-227

Topics:

Feb. 12 -- The Logistics of Battle

Feb. 14 -- Swan-Songs and Conquering Heroes

Feb. 16 -- Anglo-Saxon Persistence and Anglo-Norman Power

Identify your shire

Week 7: The Debate

Read:

Read Chibnall, according to sections assigned.

Topics:

Feb. 19 -- What's the Argument Between Historians?

Feb. 21 -- The Case for Anglo-Saxon England

Feb. 23 -- The Case for Normandy

Week 8 -- Domesday Book as Evidence

Read:

Introduction to your Domesday volume

Topics:

Feb. 26 -- MIDTERM EXAM

Feb. 28 -- Identifying the Problem and Defining a Hypothesis

March 2 -- What Domesday Can and Cannot Tell Us

\* \* \* \* \* SPRING BREAK \* \* \* \* \*

Week 9 -- Gathering Your Data

XMarch 12 -- Interpreting the Terminology of Domesday Book (work in lab)

March 14 -- Building the Database (work in lab)

March 16 -- Building the Database (work in lab)

Week 10: Gathering Your Data

Mar. 19 -- Building the Database (work in lab)

Mar. 21 -- Building the Database (work in lab)

Mar. 23 -- Building the Database (work in lab)

Week 11: Analyzing Your Data

Topics:

Mar. 26 -- How To Lie with Statistics

Mar. 28 -- Variables and Regression Analysis

Mar. 30 -- Graphing and Analysis (work in lab)

Week 12: Analyzing Your Data

Topics:

Apr. 2-- Graphing and Analysis (work in lab)

Apr. 4 -- Graphing and Analysis (work in lab)

Apr. 6 -- Graphing and Analysis (work in lab)

Week 13: Identifying the Issues

Topics:

Apr. 9 -- Individual Research; see me at least once this week

Apr. 11 -- Individual Research

Apr. 13 -- EASTER BREAK

Week 14: Resolving the Issues

Topics:

Apr. 16 -- Individual Research; see me at least once this week

Apr. 18 -- Individual Research  
Apr. 20 -- Student Reports

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Week 15: Presenting Your Conclusions

Topics:  
Apr. 23 -- Student reports

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Apr. 25 -- Student reports

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Apr. 27 -- Student reports

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FINAL PAPER DUE

FINAL EXAM -- TUESDAY, MAY 4, AT 1:00 P.M., IN COMPUTER LAB