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


Howarth, David. *1066: The Year of the Conquest*.


Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed.

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 and to give an oral summary of their conclusions for the rest of the class during the final two weeks of the semester.

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:

- Computer assignments 25%
- Take-home Midterm exam 10%
- Oral Report 20%
- Term Paper 25%
- Final Exam 20%

Specific instructions on using the computer as a research and communication tool will be distributed separately. Minimum requirements include the following:

1. A brief biographical description of one of the major figures of the eleventh century. You may choose among members of Duke William's court, the Norman dukes or the Anglo-Saxon and Danish royal families. (Limit 2 screens)

2. A descriptive analysis of one section of the Bayeux Tapestry. (Limit 2 screens)

3. A formal proposal of your research project, including the shire you have chosen, the questions you hope to answer, and the kinds of sources you hope to use. You should include a hypothesis—a educated guess as to the direction your research will take. Eventually, this may become your thesis statement, although you can expect it to change as your research progresses. (Limit 2 screens)

4. One interim report on your research paper, briefly indicating where you are headed, or what you have recently discovered about your topic. (Limit 2 screens)

5. A precis or summary of your thesis and findings. This statement should correspond to the broader explication of your written paper. (Limit 3 screens)

In addition to these requirements, you should become accustomed to using the
discussion list to raise questions about your research, make suggestions to your classmates, or ask for bibliographic help. When comments are made on your own work, you are expected to read them promptly and respond appropriately. Your participation in the computer network will count as 25% of the course grade.

DAILY ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Week 1: Thinking Like a Historian

Read: Morillo, “Introduction”

Topics:
Jan. 13 -- Let’s “Do” History Sometime
Jan. 15 -- All the Stuff We Don’t Know

Week 2: Normandy Before the Conquest

Read:
Brown, Chaps. 1-2
Dudo of St. Quentin’s History of Normandy
(online at <http://orb.rhodes.edu/ORB_done/Dudo/dudindex.html>)

Topics:
Jan. 20 -- Vikings Into Normans
Jan. 22 -- Young Duke William

Week 3: England Before the Conquest

Read:
Brown, Chaps. 3-4
Howarth, pp. 1-59

Topics:
Jan. 25 -- The Viking Challenge to England
Jan. 27 -- The Anglo-Saxon Monarchy
Jan. 29 -- The Scandanavian Connection
Computer Assignment Due: Biographical Sketch

Week 4: The Tapestry As Evidence

Examine:
Bayeux Tapestry, available online at http://orb.rhodes.edu/schriber

Topics:
Feb. 1 -- Contacts Between Anglo-Saxons and Normans
Feb. 3 -- The Invasion According to the Tapestry
Feb. 5 -- The Battle of Hastings as Caricature

Week 5: The Invasion Campaign

Read:
Brown, Chap. 5
Howarth, pp. 60-141

Topics:
Feb. 8 -- Conflicting Claims
Feb. 10 -- Harold’s “coup d’état”
Feb. 12 -- William Sails into Action

Computer Assignment Due: Tapestry Panel

Week 6: The Battle of Hastings

Read:
Howarth, 142-200
Brown, Chap. 6
Morillo, “The Battle,” pp. 150-227

Topics:
Feb. 15 -- The Logistics of Battle
Feb. 17 -- Swan-Songs and Conquering Heroes
Feb. 19 -- Anglo-Saxon Persistence and Anglo-Norman Power

Identify your shire

Week 7: Domesday Book As Evidence

Read:
Hoover, chaps. 1-3
Introduction to your Domesday volume
Topics:

**Feb. 22 -- EXAM**
Feb. 24 -- Identifying the Problem and Defining a Hypothesis
Feb. 26 -- What Domesday Book Can and Cannot Tell Us

**Week 8 -- Gathering Your Data**

March 1 -- Interpreting the Terminology of Domesday Book (work in lab)
March 3 -- Building the Database (work in lab)
March 5 -- Building the Database (work in lab)

**Computer Assignment Due: Paper Proposal**

**Week 9 -- SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10: Gathering Your Data**

Mar. 15 -- Building the Database (work in lab)
Mar. 17 -- Building the Database (work in lab)
Mar. 19 -- Building the Database (work in lab)

**Week 11: Analyzing Your Data**

Read:
Hoover, Chaps. 4-5

Topics:

Mar. 22 -- How To Lie with Statistics
Mar. 24 -- Variables and Regression Analysis
Mar. 26 -- Graphing and Analysis (work in lab)

**Week 12: Analyzing Your Data**

Topics:

Mar. 29 -- Graphing and Analysis (work in lab)
Mar. 31 -- Graphing and Analysis (work in lab)

Apr. 2 -- EASTER BREAK

**Week 13: Identifying the Issues**

Topics:
Apr. 5 -- Individual Research; see me at least once each week
Apr. 7 -- Individual Research; see me at least once each week
Apr. 9 -- Individual Research; see me at least once each week

**Computer Assignment Due: Interim Progress Report**

### Week 14: Resolving the Issues

Topics:
- Apr. 12 -- Individual Research; see me at least once each week
- Apr. 14 -- Individual Research; see me at least once each week
- Apr. 16 -- Individual Research; see me at least once each week

### Week 15: Drawing Your Conclusions

Topics:
- Apr. 19 -- Individual Research; see me at least once each week
- Apr. 21 -- Individual Research; see me at least once each week
- Apr. 23 -- Student reports

### Week 16

Topics:
- Apr. 26 -- Student reports
- Apr. 28 -- Student reports
- Apr. 30 -- Student reports

**Computer Assignment Due: Precis**

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