Department of History

HTST 420
Early Medieval England, 500-1100
Winter 2022

Instructor: Dr Courtnay Konshuh (rhymes with ‘shoe’)
Email: courtnay.konshuh@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: SS622 Tuesday/Thursday 2-3pm in person or by zoom
Email Office Hours: Monday 12-2pm, Tuesday/Thursday 2-4pm. Please note I respond to emails in email office hours, otherwise irregularly and never on weekends or after 4pm.

Class Room Location, Days and Times: MS 211, TuTh 9:30AM - 10:45AM
Course Delivery: In person

Description
This course examines the period from the departure of the Romans through to the coming of the Normans. It was an epoch that saw the gradual conversion of the peoples of the British Isles to Christianity and the redrawing of the ethnic and political map of the islands. The following three centuries from 800 to 1100 A.D., from the Vikings incursions of the ninth century through to the Norman Conquest of England were a highly formative period in the history of the Isles, witnessing the emergence of England and Scotland as identifiable political entities. In the centuries between these events many of the patterns of English life that would endure into the medieval and early modern periods were shaped; the period witnessed the birth of the English people, the establishment of Christianity and the development of the English language. To understand the Anglo-Saxon age, students will engage with interdisciplinary approaches, such as: archaeology, art history, historical genetics, literary studies, and numismatics (coins).

Learning Outcomes
Students will gain a foundational understanding of the process of conversion, the development of art, the impact of the Anglo-Saxons and later the Vikings, the relationships between lords, the clergy and labourers, development of trade and urbanization, the spread of written culture and the relationships between Britain, Ireland and the continent. We will practice close reading of primary texts in seminars, and learn how to ‘read’ objects as historical sources. Assignments will help you to combine primary and secondary evidence in historical analysis.

Required reading Material
The History Student’s Handbook. Seriously. Read it front to back and use it to format your
bibliography and footnotes.

While the course is primarily composed of lectures, there are document and writing workshops throughout. Readings from our textbook (Higham and Ryan = H&R) or from the coursepack are due by the beginning of the lecture for which it is listed. You do not need to bring the textbook to class, but please bring the coursepack for the document seminars. The lectures do not repeat content from the reading unless students explicitly ask me to review difficult material, which I am happy to do. Lectures provide students with additional context or detail on top of the readings and reflect on long-term developments. Both the readings and lecture content will be relevant for the midterm and final exam.

**Online tools**
- The Electronic Sawyer charter database [https://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk/](https://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk/)
- Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England [https://pase.ac.uk](https://pase.ac.uk)
- Corpus of Early Medieval Coin Finds [https://emc.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/](https://emc.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/)
- The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (Old English) [http://asc.jebbo.co.uk/](http://asc.jebbo.co.uk/)
- Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire [https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/4640](https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/hoard/4640)
- Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer [https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/aerial-archaeology-mapping-explorer/](https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/aerial-archaeology-mapping-explorer/)

**Indispensable Primary Sources**
- Bede. *Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Eds. and trans. Bertram Colgrave and Roger Mynors. Oxford: 1969. Available digitally on the Internet Archive. This is the best translation of the original Latin available. You will find many editions and several online – none of these are as good as Colgrave/Mynors. If you cite Bede (in Latin or in English) in a written paper, I will expect you to use this edition.
- Gildas. *The Ruin of Britain and Other Works*. Ed. and trans. Michael Winterbottom. Chichester: 1978. Available digitally on the Internet Archive. This is the best translation of the original Latin available. You will find many editions and several online – none of these are as good as Winterbottom. If you cite Gildas (in Latin or in English) in a written paper, I will expect you to use this edition.
- Swanton, Michael, ed. *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. London: 1996. This is the best translation of the Chronicle available. Unfortunately it does not exist digitally and our library only has one copy. I will put it on reserve. If you can’t get a hold of it the Whitelock translation (below) is a good second choice. Avoid the other 17 versions the library has, and especially the avoid the 19th century versions you’ll see online. These are really awful translations.
- Whitelock, Dorothy. *English Historical Documents, Vol I*. (1979). Available digitally via the library. This is the single best resource for the period. It provides a wide range of documents in translation, often with an introduction. If you can’t get a hold of a better edition, this is always the next best choice.

**Assessment**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Object Study</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</table>

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## Grading Policies

I am happy to provide you with detailed feedback on your papers and to discuss your papers in more detail after you have read the feedback. Please note I do not read emails sent within 24 hours of your receiving your grade. Please wait at least 24 hours before contacting me so we can have a more productive conversation.

Grades will be given in percentage throughout the semester, except for your paper proposal, which is pass/fail. The Paper Proposal must receive a passing grade or I will not accept your paper. If you are unhappy with a grade, please come to see me as a first resort. We can then discuss your work and I can outline the process for an appeal if necessary. Final grades of 69 and 79 will be rounded up. No other grades will be rounded.

## Details on Methods of Assessment

In order to pass this class, you must complete all assignments and quizzes. If you anticipate issues completing an assignment in advance of the deadline, please try to speak with me in advance. Word counts have a +/- 10% tolerance range. Go above or below and it will affect the grade by 5% per 10% of words.

### Midterm and Final Quiz

Both of these will be held in class and will consist of three parts: 1 is a map assignment. You will get an outline map and a list of regions, places, rivers, etc. to fill in approximately one week in advance. The second part will be an object analysis, where you will write approx., 1 full paragraph (with a thesis) placing an object in historical and cultural context. The final part will be a short essay on a topic

### Object Study (800 words)

Learning to evaluate source material (either text or object) is an essential skill for thinking and writing about the medieval period. The goal of this assignment is to demonstrate that you understand the nature and value of material culture as a source for historical research and for developing a deeper understanding of the people who produced it. An object study is an essay in that it has a thesis and argument and is written up in standard essay format — meaning in sentences and paragraphs with an introduction that clearly states the point of the evaluation and conclusion. A successful critical object study includes a description of the object embedded within research which contextualises the object. The point of an object study is to situate your object in its historical context, which means providing sufficient historical background to the culture and explaining how the object fits into this or exemplifies a historical development. More detailed information will be given in class in the weeks leading up to this assignment and we will practice analysing objects in class and quizzes. Lists and links to documents and objects will be provided on D2L.

Use reliable resources to do that, such as: Museum websites (for your object), an article in the
New Cambridge Medieval History and any other peer-reviewed secondary source. A minimum of 2 secondary sources are required in addition to a source for your object for a passing grade; excellent papers will have more. Do not underestimate this assignment! It is extremely difficult to write a clear and well-researched argument in only 800 words. Students have reported that they often spend as much time on this as they would on a 2000-word paper.

**Essay (2000 words)**

The major writing assignment will consist of a research essay on one of the topics listed below. It must be based on primary sources (in translation) or on a selection of material objects and supported by secondary scholarly research.

- This is a formal research essay, double spaced with full footnotes and a bibliography (according to the History Student’s Handbook or Rampolla's *Pocket Guide to Writing in History*).
- You will be required to use at least three (2) substantial or several shorter primary sources and at least ten (8) secondary sources when writing their papers. This is the minimum of sources you must consult in order to receive a passing grade. If you want an excellent grade, you will consult substantially more.
- Good papers will be free of errors of grammar, spelling and punctuation. They will have a clear structure, consisting of an introduction (with a thesis statement), a body and a conclusion.
- Arguments will be supported with reference to the primary texts, but long quotations (over three lines) should generally be avoided.
- Do not simply summarize readings—I want to read your analysis and viewpoint, supported by strong and thoughtful arguments.
- Good papers are free of grammar, spelling and punctuation errors. They have a clear structure, consisting of introduction (with thesis statement), body and conclusion. You can get help with essay writing or find someone to edit your draft from the library's Writing Centre. Register for these 30 minute sessions by logging on to [https://success.ucalgary.ca/home.htm](https://success.ucalgary.ca/home.htm)
- save your MS Word, Pages, or Open Office document with the filename format LASTNAME Assignment (example: Konshuh Chapter Response), and submit online. Please do not give me pdfs.

**Topics**

1) Compare and contrast the evidence for Romano-British continuity and discontinuity in the fifth and sixth centuries. To what extent was there a break with the fall of Rome?
2) In what ways is it important to make use of different types of evidence when examining the 'Anglo-Saxon migration' into Britain?
3) Why did the Anglo-Saxons adopt Christianity in the sixth and seventh centuries?
4) What are the strengths and weaknesses of Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History* as a source for the early Anglo-Saxon conversions?
5) In what ways did the pre-Viking Age church in England reflect the interests of Anglo-Saxon
lay society?
6) What factors determined the success or failure of a kingdom in the pre-Viking period? (you should focus on a single kingdom, though you must make reference to a range of kingdoms)
7) By what means, and with what success, was the Mercian kingdom able to achieve its dominant position amongst the pre-Viking Age kingdoms of England?
8) Assess the significance of the Scandinavian contribution to society and culture of the ‘Danelaw’.
9) Why was Wessex the only kingdom to survive the Viking onslaught in the ninth century?
10) By what means, and with what success, did kings of Wessex become kings of England in the tenth century?
11) Discuss the significance of reform in the tenth-century English church.
You may select your own topic IN CONSULTATION WITH ME. If you give me an essay that is not one of these and has not been agreed upon with me, you will get 0.

Late Submissions Policy
Extensions are possible and will be granted under extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances are not the same as poor time management. If I do not hear from you, late assignments will be penalised by 10% for the first day and an additional 1% for each subsequent day of lateness, and no feedback will be given on late papers.
Everyone gets one 3-day, no-questions-asked extension on any single written assignment.
I am flexible about additional extensions as long as you speak with me in advance. I do not respond to extension emails sent within 24 hours of a deadline – if there is an emergency, contact me. The final date I can accept papers for this course is December 14 – if there is an emergency and you need longer, you must apply for a deferral.

Learning Technologies Requirements
There is a D2L site for this course that contains relevant class resources and materials. In order to successfully engage in learning experiences in this class, students will need reliable access to the following technology: internet access and a computer, tablet, or other device to access D2L. If you choose to access office hours by appointment on D2L, you will need a camera and microphone.

Schedule

|   | Jan 11 | Intro and Outline  
|   |       | Roman Britain; the British |
|   |       |   H&R pp. 20-69 |
|   | Jan 13 | Germanic Migration  
|   |       |   H&R pp.70-111 |
|   |       | Introduction to Old English  
|   |       |   - |
|   | Jan 18 | Spong Hill / Prittlewell Chambered Grave /  
|   |       | How to do an object study |
|   |       |   H&R pp.111-125 |
|   | Jan 20 | Sutton Hoo; early Kings and Kingdoms  
|   |       |   H&R pp.125-153 |
|   | Jan 25 | Early Christianity  
|   |       |   H&R pp.153-178 |
|   | Jan 27 | Document workshop: Bede and conversion  
<p>|   |       |   Course Reader |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>The Mercian Hegemony</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 179-217</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Object study due today!!</strong></td>
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<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>the Vikings</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 232-258</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>'The ‘micel hæðen here’ (great army) and Alfred</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 258-270</td>
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<td>Feb 10</td>
<td><strong>Document workshop:</strong> the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles</td>
<td>Course Reader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>King Alfred’s reforms</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 271-283</td>
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<td>Feb 17</td>
<td><strong>Midterm</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading Week</strong></td>
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<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>Tenth century unification</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 284-322</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Aethelred Unraed and</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 335-348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>the Fall of England</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 348-358</td>
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<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>Coins class</td>
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<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>King Cnut and the North Sea Empire</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 358-380</td>
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<td>Mar 17</td>
<td><strong>Writing workshop:</strong> palaeography</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 365-380</td>
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<td><strong>Essays due today!!</strong></td>
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<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Beowulf and other literature</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 381-385</td>
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<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>Edward the Confessor</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 387-397</td>
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<td>Mar 29</td>
<td>Succession Crisis and Conquest</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 397-408</td>
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<td>Mar 31</td>
<td><strong>Document workshop:</strong> 1066</td>
<td>Course Reader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>William the Conqueror</td>
<td>H&amp;R pp. 408-441</td>
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<td>Apr 7</td>
<td><strong>Final quiz</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>Something fun</td>
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There is no registrar-scheduled final exam.
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION APPEARS ON ALL DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY COURSE OUTLINES

Departmental Grading System
The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>Approaching excellent performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>Exceeding good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>Approaching good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Exceeding satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Approaching satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-55</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure. Did not meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Note: Students are expected to reach the grade range to receive that letter grade (ie. to receive an A- a student will have earned an 80 or 3.7 in the course). Assume that there will be no rounding up unless a faculty member announces otherwise.

Program Advising and Student Information Resources
- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC).
- For questions about admissions, student awards, common registration issues, financial aid and student fees, contact Enrolment Services.
- Sometimes unexpected circumstances may affect your schedule. You can change your registration during the course change period. Please see the Registration Changes and Exemption Requests page.

Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take this course in your second year.

Writing
All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented according to the format described in The History Student’s Handbook.
Academic Misconduct
Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student’s academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For more information, please see the University of Calgary Student Academic Misconduct Policy documents, and visit the Academic Integrity Website.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism occurs when students submit or present the ideas and/or writing of others as if they were their own or when they submit their own work to two different classes. Please see The History Student’s Handbook for more details, but to summarize, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Art’s associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the university calendar.

Academic Accommodation
It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the Student Accommodations policy. Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit Student Accessibility Services.

Research Ethics
If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics website before beginning the assignment.

Instructor Intellectual Property
Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the
instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation
All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the Copyright Act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Copyright of Educational Materials
The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. Please see the University of Calgary copyright page.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy
Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students’ assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard.

Media Recording
The instructor may use media recordings to record the delivery of a lecture for various reasons, including lecture capture and self-assessment. Students will be informed of media recordings in advance and the recording device will be fixed on the instructor. In the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent from identifiable students, before making a recording available to the class.

Media Recording for the Assessment of Student Learning
The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students, by prior arrangement. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Sexual Violence Policy
The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary’s sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have
experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the sexual violence policy.

Other Useful Information
Please see the Registrar’s Course Outline Student Support and Resources page for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Department of History Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Winter 2022 (in-person)