



HIST 4654: Medieval London

Prof. Maryanne Kowaleski
Fall 2017

Office Hours: in Dealy 627
Mondays 2:30-3:45; Thursdays 11:30-1:00; and by appointment
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Course Aims:

This interdisciplinary capstone course draws on archaeological and historical evidence and methods to study medieval London. By the end of the course, students should:

- Understand the economic, political, religious, and social influences on the development of medieval London's landscape of buildings, streets, and public spaces
- Understand the economic, social, administrative, and religious history of medieval London from the Anglo-Saxons through the Wars of the Roses
- Have experience analyzing the chief primary sources for medieval London, particularly its charters, chronicles, court rolls, ordinances, guild records, contracts, and wills
- Be able to interpret material evidence for medieval London, particularly human skeletal material, ceramics, clothing, small finds, and the architectural features of buildings
- Be able to compare, contrast, and coordinate archaeological and documentary evidence on particular aspects of London's medieval past in class discussions and a final paper
- Become familiar with digital tools and communication by contributing to an online (Omeka) curated exhibition on the material culture of medieval London

Grading:

Discussion:	25%
Online exhibition report	20%
Pop quizzes	10%
Presentation:	20%
Final Paper:	25%

Note that all grading is numerical and translates as follows: 100-94=A; 93-90=A-; 89-87=B+; 86-84=B; 83-80=B-; 79-77=C+; 76-74=C; 73-70=C-; 69-60=D; 59-0=F.

Required Texts to Buy (available at the Fordham University bookstore and also on 2-hour Reserve)

FitzStephen, William. *Norman London*. New York: Italica Press, 1990, 2nd edn 2008 [ISBN 978-0934977197, paperback, c. \$11 on Amazon]. You can also buy the first edition. [Also on Reserve and on Blackboard]

Mount, T. *Everyday Life in Medieval London*. Amberley Publishing, 2015. 978-1-4456-4700-5 (paper).[also Reserve]

Required Texts on Blackboard (those marked [R] are also on two-hour reserve at the Walsh Circulation Desk):

Barron, C.M. "Ch. 1: The Demands of the Crown," (pp. 9-29) "Ch. 2: The Needs of the City," (pp. 30-42); "Ch. 7: Annually Elected Officials: Mayors and Sheriffs," (pp. 147-72); "Ch. 10: Urban Environment," pp. 255-66 only, in *London in the Later Middle Ages*. Oxford, 2004.

BBC. "Filthy Cities: Medieval London" (BBC 2 production: <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1bq71r>)

Hanawalt, B. "Servants," in *Growing Up in Medieval London*. Oxford, 1993, pp. 173-98

McIntosh, J. *The Practical Archaeologist: How We Know What We Know About the Past*. 2nd edition. New York: Checkmark Books, 1999: I: pp. 74-91. [R]

Milne, G. *The Port of Medieval London*. Stroud: Tempus, 2003, pp.11-20, 103-4, 115-29, 147-56 [R]

Morgan, J. "Black Death Skeletons Unearthed by Crossrail Project," BBC News (29 March 2014) at

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26770334>

Museum of London, Centre for Human Bioarchaeology. "Medieval Cemeteries:" at

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections/other-collection-databases-and-libraries/centre-human-bioarchaeology/osteological-database/medieval-cemeteries> .

Primary Source Reader on Medieval London: You should download, print out, read, and mark-up the chapter for Discussion well in advance of the Discussion session for which the chapter is assigned.

Schofield, J. *London 1000-1600: The Archaeology of a Capital City*. Oakville, CT: Equinox, 2011. **I:** pp. 60-69, 74-77, 80-108. **II:** pp. 114-23, 136-46, 152-54. **III:** pp. 23-34, 205-19; **IV:** pp. 159-89, 194-6; , **V:** pp. 23-34, 205-19 [R]

Steane, J. M. "The Tower of London," *The Archaeology of Medieval England and Wales*. London, 1984, pp. 8-11
 Thrupp, S. L. "Standards of Comfort," (pp. 130-54) and "Economic and Social Position of London Merchants," pp. 1-33 in *The Merchant Class of Medieval London [1300-1500]*. Ann Arbor, 1948.

A Research Bibliography for the Omeka online reports and the Presentations will also be made available.

Attendance Policy

Attendance in class and on excursions is required. Each unexcused absence from class will result in the deduction of 1.5 points from the final Discussion grade. This course follows the Fordham College Attendance Policy: *Absences for reasons of religious holidays, serious illness, death in the student's immediate family, or required participation in a University-sponsored event are, with the appropriate documentation, excused absences. The maximum number of total excused absences will not exceed four class meetings for a course meeting two days per week. In cases where unusual circumstances cause a student to miss a significant amount of class time for reasons beyond the student's control, the student should confer with the faculty member and class dean to ascertain if it is feasible to complete the work of the course. The student's class dean will be notified if s/he misses two classes in a row.*

Omeka Online Exhibition Report:

Each student is required to post on the course online exhibition website (<https://medievallondon.ace.fordham.edu/>) a short report (750-1000 words), with at least two images, downloaded or scanned, or a scan or download of a drawing, map, or manuscript illumination. Further instructions, including a list of objects to choose from and suggested sources, will be made available later; a class will also be devoted to the subject of Digital Humanities that includes directions on how to log onto the class Omeka site and upload your metadata and report. The Omeka report can be uploaded at any time, but the final draft must be completed and uploaded by 10 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20. There will be 2 points deducted from the Online Report grade for every day it is late.

Discussion:

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings for each class (or watch/consult the video/website assigned that day) and come ready to discuss them at that class. Use these questions as a guide when you read: (1) what types of sources are employed to present information about medieval London? (2) what do these sources tell us about the topic under discussion? (3) what interpretations are offered about the topic? (4) can you discern the methodologies employed by the author to discover information and offer interpretative analysis? Class meetings marked Discussion below are mainly devoted to discussing the Primary Source chapter and secondary source readings assigned since the last Discussion. It is crucial that students complete the assigned readings before the Discussion and, in particular, that they have downloaded, printed out, read, and marked up the Primary Source chapter reading assigned for that class. *Please remember to bring your copy of the Primary Source chapter with you to the Discussion class.*

Quizzes:

Two to four 5-10 minute pop quizzes will be given based on the lectures and readings. Students who are absent without an excuse on the day when a quiz is given will receive a 0 for that quiz.

Presentations:

Each student is required to do one 8-10 minute oral presentation on topics related to but not covered in depth during a particular class; the presentation topics are noted in the weekly schedule, below. The talk should be informational and consider the types of sources and methodologies (both historical and archaeological) that scholars have employed to understand the topic. It can include handouts of maps, graphs or pictures if the presenter so chooses. Questions from other students will follow each presentation (the ability to ask questions is counted towards the Discussion grade).

Final Paper:

A final paper is due Monday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m., when class begins. Students will be given a choice of three questions to address, each of which requires you to compare and contrast archaeological and documentary evidence on some aspect of medieval London. You will need to draw on at least six different sources (most will be available on Blackboard) and the final paper should be 10-12 double-spaced pages long (2700-3500 words, excluding

footnotes and bibliography of works cited). Further guidelines about the questions, readings, and format of the final paper will be distributed in class. Students are allowed to make up their own questions as long as Prof. Kowaleski approves the question and sources to be used by Oct. 30. For each day the paper is late, 2 points will be deducted from the paper grade.

Policy on Electronics:

All cell phones should be turned off (this includes vibrating mode) and stored out of sight during class. Laptops and tablets are not (unless specifically noted) allowed to be used during lectures or discussion, when note-taking by hand is encouraged. Please see the instructor if you have compelling reasons why you should be exempted from these policies.

Class Meetings and Readings:

Students are expected to read the assigned works (or view the assigned videos) *before* they come to class. All items except Mount, *Medieval London*, are available on Blackboard.

Aug. 31: **An Introduction to the *Interdisciplinary Study of Medieval London***

Sept 4: No classes. Labor Day.

Sept. 6: (Monday schedule) **The Topographical Development London I: Romans and Anglo-Saxons**

Reading: Mount, *Medieval London*, 9-28, 41-45, 50-63.

Sept. 7: **The Topographical Development of London II: Norman and Medieval London**

Reading: Mount, *Medieval London*, 63-69, 83-97.

Sept. 11: DISCUSSION: **William FitzStephen's *A Description of London***

Reading: William FitzStephen, *Norman London*, pp. vii-xv, 1-90 and note Glossary on pp. 97-102.

Sept. 14: **Introduction to Archaeological Techniques and Assessment**

Reading: McIntosh, *Practical Archaeologist*, pp. 74-91

Sept. 18: DISCUSSION: **Interpreting Archaeological Finds: Methods and Techniques**

Reading: Consider the archaeological techniques at the heart of all ten discoveries in: "Top Ten Discoveries of 2016," *Archaeology* (December 12, 2016), online at: <http://www.archaeology.org/issues/240-1701/features/5125-top-10-archaeological-discoveries-of-2016>

Sept. 21: **Introduction to Digital Humanities and the Omeka Platform**

Presentation: Faunal Analysis: How it Works and What It Tells Us

Presentation: DNA Analysis: How it Works and What It Tells Us

Sept. 25: **Domesticity in Medieval London I: The Material Culture of Everyday Life**

Reading: Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, I: pp. 60-69, 74-77, 80-108

Sept. 28: **Domesticity in Medieval London II: The Material Culture of Everyday Life**

Reading: Mount, *Medieval London*, 219-32, 174-87

Presentation: Diet in Medieval London

Oct. 2: DISCUSSION: **Documentary Evidence for Everyday Life in Medieval London**

Reading: Thrupp, "Standards of Comfort" *Merchant Class*, pp. 130-54

Primary Source Reader: Chapter 1

Presentation: Stable Isotope Analysis: How It Works and What it Tells Us

Oct. 5: **London and the Crown**

Reading: Barron, *London*, "Ch. 1: The Demands of the Crown," pp. 9-29

Oct. 9: No class. Columbus Day.

Oct. 12: DISCUSSION **City and Crown: The Reality of Royal Power**

Reading: Barron, *London*, "Ch. 2: The Needs of the City," pp. 30-42

Primary Source Reader: Chapter 2
Presentation: The Tower of London

Oct. 16: **Governing London: Mayors, Aldermen, the Common Council, and Wards**

Reading: Barron, *London*, “Ch. 7: The Annually Elected Officials: Mayor and Sheriffs,” 147-72
Mount, *Medieval London*, 112-14, 121-24

Oct. 19: DISCUSSION: **Government and the Civic Bureaucracy**

Reading: *Primary Source Reader*: Chapter 3
Presentation: The 1381 Revolt in London

Oct. 20: All Omeka reports must be uploaded by Friday, Oct. 20, 10 p.m. No exceptions.

Oct. 23: **Making Money in Medieval London: Guilds, Trade, and Finance**

Reading: Mount, *Medieval London*, pp. 115-118, 141-49

Oct. 26: DISCUSSION: **The Merchant Class of Medieval London**

Reading: Thrupp, “Economic and Social Position of London Merchants,” pp. 1-33
Primary Source Reader: Chapter 4
Presentation: Geoffrey Chaucer as a Londoner
Presentation: Education in Medieval London

Oct. 30: **Working in Medieval London: The Other 90%**

Reading: Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, II: pp. 114-23, 136-46, 152-54
Mount, *Medieval London*, 149-56, 191-205

Nov. 2: DISCUSSION: **The Manufacturing, Retail, and Service Sectors of the London Economy**

Reading: Hanawalt, “Servants,” pp. 173-98
Primary Source Reader: Chapter 5
Presentation: Children in Medieval London

Nov. 6: **Living and Dying in Medieval London: Reading Human Bones**

Reading: Museum of London, “Medieval Cemeteries”: read “Medieval Period Summary,” and two of the eight cemetery reports (both the summary and data presented in graphs), and look at least three of the photographs for each of your two sites, at <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections/other-collection-databases-and-libraries/centre-human-bioarchaeology/osteological-database/medieval-cemeteries>
Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, pp. 198-205

Nov. 9: DISCUSSION: **Living and Dying in Medieval London**

Reading: Morgan, “Black Death Skeletons Unearthed by Crossrail Project,” BBC News (29 March 2014) at <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26770334>
Reader of Primary Sources: Chapter 6
Presentation: Medieval Burial Practices
Presentation: Determining if the Bubonic Plague was *Yersina Pestis*

Nov. 13: **Worshipping in Medieval London: The Clergy, Laity and Medieval Devotion**

Reading: Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, IV: pp. 159-89, 194-6

Nov. 16: DISCUSSION: **Religion in Medieval London**

Reading: *Primary Source Reader*: Chapter 7
Presentation: Entertainment and Social Life in the Medieval Parish
Presentation: The Jews in Medieval London

Nov. 20: DISCUSSION: **Monasteries and Hospitals in Medieval London [Paper Due by 10 a.m.]**

Reading: Carlin, “Medieval English Hospitals,” pp. 21-39
Primary Sources Reader: Chapter 8
Presentation: Almshouses and Changing Attitudes towards Poverty

Nov. 23: No Class. Thanksgiving break

Nov. 27: **The Urban Environment: Buildings, Pollution, and Sanitation**

Reading: Barron, *Medieval London*, "Ch. 10: Urban Environment," pp. 255-66 only
Schofield: *London: Archaeology*, V: pp. 23-34, 205-19

Nov. 30: DISCUSSION: **The Urban Environment**

Watch: "Filthy Cities: Medieval London" (BBC 2 production on YouTube: one hour)

Reading: *Primary Source Reader*: Chapter 9

Presentation: The Suburb of Southwark

Presentation: The 'Inns' and Houses of the Wealthy in Medieval London

Dec. 4: **Crime and the Underworld in Medieval London**

Reading: Mount, *Medieval London*, pp. 233-46

DISCUSSION: *Primary Source Reader*: Chapter 10

Dec. 7: **London and the Thames**

Reading: Milne, *The Port of Medieval London*, pp.11-20, 103-4, 115-29, 147-56

DISCUSSION: *Primary Source Reader*: Chapter 11

Presentation: London Bridge in History and Archaeology