



MVST 4654: Medieval London

Prof. Maryanne Kowaleski

Fordham London Centre: Spring 2015

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
- Gained 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:	20%
Object report	15%
Site report	15%
Pop quizzes	10%
Presentation:	15%
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:

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.

McIntosh, Jane R. *The Practical Archaeologist: How We Know What We Know about the Past*. New York: Checkmark Books, second edition only, 1999 [ISBN: 978-0816039500, paperback, \$5-\$15 on Amazon]

John Schofield. *London 1100-1600: The Archaeology of a Capital City*. Equinox Publishing, 2011 [ISBN 978-1-908049-72-8 paperback, c. \$45 on Amazon]

Major Text available online:

- Caroline Barron. *Medieval London: Government and the People, 1200-1500*. Oxford University Press, 2011 [EBook thru Fordham Library and assigned chapters will be available on ERes]

Other Texts:

- Other reading assignments will be available on ERes (marked with *) or Google Drive (marked with +) in Readings). Note: the password to the Fordham ERes MVST 4654 site is 'bronx' (all lower case)
- *Primary Source Reader on Medieval London* will be made available a week in advance of the assignment
- A Research Bibliography for the Omeka online reports and the Presentation will be distributed later
- Students will need access to computers (available at Heythrop if you do not have a laptop) and a camera (smartphone camera should be fine) to complete the online assignments

Attendance and Discussion:

Class meets twice a week. The Tuesday morning one-hour meetings are small discussion sections with oral Presentations, although on occasion they will include lecture material. The two-hour Wednesday afternoon meeting will focus primarily on lectures, with some discussions; excursions will also generally occur during the Wednesday meeting. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Attendance in class and on excursions is required. Each

unexcused absence from class or an excursion will result in the deduction of 3 points from the overall Discussion grade. Excused absences are for documented medical reasons or extenuating circumstances, which *do not* include travel or visits from parents or friends.

Medieval Object and Site Reports:

Each student is required to post on the course online exhibition website two short (c. 500-750 words) reports. The postings should include illustrations: photos taken by you or downloaded or scanned, or a scan or download of a drawing or manuscript illumination. One report is on a medieval object associated with London, and the other is on a medieval site (building, street, etc...) in London that you must personally visit and photograph. Further instructions about each report, including a list of objects and sites and some suggested sources will be made available in London. These reports will be due on a rotating basis starting the week of February 4. There will be 3 points deducted from the report grade for every day it is late.

Quizzes:

Two to four 5-10 minute pop quizzes will be given based on the lectures and readings.

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 (your questions are considered part of your Discussion grade).

Final Paper:

A final paper is due April 15. 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 online) and the final paper should be 8-10 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. A Work-in-Progress is due March 10 that includes a) a draft introduction to the paper at least one paragraph long; b) an outline of the paper; and c) annotations of at least three of the sources being used. Students are allowed to make up their own questions as long as Prof. Kowaleski approves the question and sources to be used by March 10. For each day the paper is late, 3 points will be deducted from the paper grade.

Policy on cell phones and 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.

Class meetings and readings:

Students are expected to read the assigned works (or view the assigned videos) *before* they come to class. Starred items (*) are available on the MVST 4654 ERes site; items marked with a + are on the London Google Drive.

Jan. 13 Discussion Groups: **William FitzStephen's *A Description of London***

Reading: Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, pp. 1-10

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

Jan. 14: **The Topographical Development of London from Roman to Medieval Times**

Reading: Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, pp. 11-23

Jan. 16: **FRIDAY EXCURSION: MUSEUM OF LONDON, TOUR OF THE MEDIEVAL GALLERY.** Meet at 10 a.m at the entrance

Reading: McIntosh, *Practical Archaeologist*, pp. 2-5, 24-33, 48-9, 58-63, 66-7.

Jan. 20: **EXCURSION: MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA SERVICE, 10 A.M. AND 10:30 A.M.**

Reading: McIntosh, *Practical Archaeologist*, pp. 100-5, 110-17, 120-3, 126-39

Jan. 21: **Introduction to Archaeological Techniques and Assessment**

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

Jan. 27 Discussion Groups: **Interpreting Archaeological Finds: Methods and Techniques**

Reading: Consider the archaeological techniques at the heart of all ten discoveries in: "Top Ten Discoveries of 2014," *Archaeology* (December 16, 2014), [online](http://www.archaeology.org/issues/161-1501/features/2828-top-10-archaeological-discoveries-of-2014) at <http://www.archaeology.org/issues/161-1501/features/2828-top-10-archaeological-discoveries-of-2014>

Presentation: Faunal Analysis: How it Works

Presentation: DNA Analysis: How it Works

- Jan. 28: **Domesticity in Medieval London: The Material Culture of Everyday Life**
 Reading: Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, pp. 60-69, 74-77, 80-113
- Feb. 3 Discussion Groups: **Documentary Evidence for Everyday Life in Medieval London**
 Reading: * Hanawalt, "The Material Environment of London's Youth," pp. 23-39
Primary Source Reader: Chapter 1
 Presentation: Stable Isotope Analysis
 Presentation: Diet in Medieval London
- Feb. 4: **London and the Crown**
1st Reports in Group 1 due
 Reading: +Barron, *Medieval London*, "Ch. 1: The Demands of the Crown," pp. 9-29
 * Steane, *Archaeology of Medieval England and Wales*, pp. 8-11
- Feb. 10 Discussion Groups: **City and Crown: The Reality of Royal Power**
 Reading: +Barron, *Medieval London*, "Ch. 2: The Needs of the City," pp. 30-42
Primary Source Reader: Chapter 2
 Presentation: The Manufacture of Arms and Armor
 Presentation: Chronicles of Medieval London
- Feb 11: EXCURSION TO THE TOWER OF LONDON
 Watch: PBS video on "Secrets of the Tower of London" (55 min)
- Feb. 17 Discussion Groups: **London as the Capital**
1st Reports in Group 2 due.
 Reading: *Derek Keene, "London circa 600-1300: The Growth of a Capital," *Franco-British Studies*, 17 (1994), 23-31
Primary Source Reader: Chapter 3
 Presentation: Who Murdered the Princes in the Tower?
- Feb.18: **Governing London: Mayors, Aldermen, the Common Council, and Wards**
 Reading: +Barron, *Medieval London*, "Ch. 6: The City Courts," pp. 121-7, "Ch. 7: The Annually Elected Officials: Mayor and Sheriffs," pp. 147-72
- Feb. 24 Discussion Groups: **Government and the Civic Bureaucracy**
 Reading: +Barron, *Medieval London*, "Ch. 8: A Civic Bureaucracy," pp. 173-98
Primary Source Reader: Chapter 4
 Presentation: The 1381 Revolt in London
- Feb. 25: **Making Money in Medieval London: Guilds, Trade, and Finance**
 Reading: +Barron, *Medieval London*, "Ch. 9: Guilds to Companies," pp. 199-234
- Mar. 3 – 4: Mid-semester break (no classes)
- Mar. 10 Discussion Groups: **The Merchant Class of Medieval London**
2nd Reports in Group 1 due.
 Reading: * Thrupp, "Wealth and Standard of Living," in *Merchant Class of Medieval London*, pp. 103-54
Primary Source Reader: Chapter 5
 Presentation: Geoffrey Chaucer as a Londoner
 Presentation: Education in Medieval London
- Mar. 11: **Working in Medieval London: The Other 90%**
 Reading: Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, pp. 114-23, 136-58
 +Hanawalt, "Servants," pp. 173-98
- Mar. 17 Discussion Groups: **The Manufacturing, Retail, and Service Sectors of the London Economy**
 Reading: *Carlin, "Fast Food and Urban Living Standards in Medieval England," pp. 27-52
Primary Source Reader: Chapter 6
 Presentation: Children in Medieval London
- Mar. 18: **The Urban Environment: Buildings, Pollution, and Sanitation**
 Reading: +Barron, *Medieval London*, "Ch. 10: Urban Environment," pp. 252-66
 Schofield: *London: Archaeology*, pp. 23-41, 205-19

Mar. 24 Discussion Groups: **The Urban Environment**

2nd Report in Group 2 due

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

Reading: *Primary Source Reader*: Chapter 7

Presentation: The Suburb of Southwark

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

Mar. 25: **Worshipping in Medieval London: The Clergy, Laity and Medieval Devotion**

Reading: * Burgess, "London Parishes: Development in Context," pp. 151-74

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

Mar. 31 Discussion Groups: **Religion in Medieval London**

Reading: *Primary Source Reader*: Chapter 8

Presentation: Entertainment and Social Life in the Medieval Parish

Presentation: The Jews in Medieval London

Apr. 1: EXCURSION TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Reading: * Steane, *Archaeology of Medieval England and Wales*, pp. 2-7

Apr. 7 Discussion Groups: **Monasteries and Hospitals in Medieval London**

Reading: * Carlin, "Medieval English Hospitals," 21-39

Primary Sources Reader: Chapter 9

Presentation: Almshouses and Changing Attitudes towards Poverty

Apr. 8: **Living and Dying in Medieval London: Reading Human Bones**

Reading: Medieval Cemeteries page, Museum of London: read "Cemetery Summaries" and two of the nine cemetery reports offered at <http://archive.museumoflondon.org.uk/Centre-for-Human-Bioarchaeology/Database/Medieval+cemeteries/>

Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, pp. 198-205

Apr. 14 Discussion Groups: **Living and Dying in Medieval London**

Reading: James 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 10

Presentation: Medieval Burial Practices

Presentation: Determining if the Bubonic Plague was *Yersinia Pestis*

Apr. 15: **Crime and the Underworld in Medieval London [Paper due]**

Reading: * Summerson. "Peacekeepers and Lawbreakers in London, 1276-1321," pp. 107-22

Primary Sources Reader: Chapter 11

APR. 17, FRIDAY: EXCURSION TO CANTERBURY AND CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Apr. 21-22: No classes (because of all-day excursion to Canterbury)

Apr. 28 Discussion Groups: **London and the Thames**

Reading: Schofield, *London: Archaeology*, pp. 133-5

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

Primary Sources Reader: Chapter 12

Presentation: London Bridge in History and Archaeology

Apr. 29: EXCURSION: THAMES RIVER CRUISE