

HIST 4xxx: Medieval London  
Prof. Maryanne Kowaleski  
Spring 2015



### Course Aims:

This interdisciplinary capstone course draws on archaeological, documentary, and literary evidence to study the history and material culture of medieval London. Its aims are:

- To achieve a general knowledge of the topography of medieval London by focusing on the development of its wards, parishes, streets, and buildings and exploring these features on foot in London
- To understand the economic, social, legal, and political history of medieval London, from the Anglo-Saxons to the Wars of the Roses
- To gain experience analyzing the chief primary sources for medieval London, particularly its charters and deeds, chronicles, court rolls, ordinances, and wills
- To gain experience interpreting material evidence for medieval London, particularly human skeletal material from London cemeteries, pottery, clothing, and the architectural features of buildings
- To compare, contrast, and coordinate archaeological and documentary evidence on particular aspects of London's medieval past, such as the domestic life and working conditions of artisans and merchants; life course rituals (birth, marriage, and death); civic politics and pageantry; and the urban environment (including the role of the Thames)
- To become more familiar with digital tools and communication, including Commons-in-a-Box data curation for the class online museum of medieval London household objects and online reports (with pictures and maps) of particular medieval buildings and neighborhoods

### Grading:

Discussion:	25%
Online Object Entry:	10%
Online Field Report:	10%
Entry on Class Blog:	10%
Report on a Primary Source	10%
Final Paper	35%

### Excursions:

Attendance on excursions is required; excursions will provide material for the online/blog entries and supplement class lectures and discussions. Most of the excursions will be with the entire group, but others are up to you to complete.

### Required Texts:

Will include two to three books and a reader of primary sources compiled by the instructor. Most readings for the class discussions and final paper will be available online via ERes. Students will need access to computers and a camera to complete the online assignments.

**Class meetings:**

1. Roman and Anglo-Saxon London
2. The Development of the Medieval London Landscape: Wards, Parishes, Streets and Rivers
3. Medieval London Houses and Households (includes excursion to Museum of London)
4. Governing London: Mayors, Aldermen and Wards
5. Making Money in Medieval London: Finance, Trade and the Guilds
6. Working in Medieval London: The Other 90%
7. Living and Dying in Medieval London: Reading Human Bones
8. Women and Children in Medieval London
9. Worshipping in Medieval London: Parishes, the Clergy, and the Laity
10. Monasteries and Hospitals (includes excursion to Westminster Abbey)
11. Civic Politics and Pageantry
12. London and the Crown (includes excursion to the Tower of London)
13. Crime and Revolt in Medieval London
14. The Urban Environment: Sanitation, Marketplaces, Guildhalls, Churchyards
15. London and the Thames (includes Thames River cruise)