

Art and history in the Bayeux Tapestry

Start date 21 October 2018 **End date** 21 October 2018

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Sam Newton **Course code** 1819NDX059

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact Academic Centre Coordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Dr Sam Newton is an historian who has lectured widely around the country as an independent scholar. He has contributed to many television and radio programmes over many years, especially 'Time Team'. He was awarded his PhD in 1991. In 1993 he published his first book, *The Origins of Beowulf and the pre-Viking kingdom of East Anglia* and his second, *The Reckoning of King Rædwald: the Story of the King linked to the Sutton Hoo Ship-Burial* followed in 2003.

Sam is an accredited NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies) lecturer and a Director of the Wuffing Education Study-Day Partnership at Sutton Hoo.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	The Last of the Line of Alfred, Edward ‘the Confessor’
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Harold Godwinsson and the Oath Sworn at Bayeux, 1064
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	The Oath Broken at Westminster, 1066
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	The Judgement of God
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

This course aims to introduce participants to the main artistic, documentary, and architectural sources that enable us to understand:

- the origin, design, and style of the Bayeux Tapestry;
- the history, geopolitics, and culture of 11th century England, Normandy, and Scandinavia; and
- the significance of the Battle of Hastings.

Content:

The Bayeux Tapestry is the most important work of narrative art of the 11th century and one of the major sources for our understanding of Anglo-Norman culture. We shall attempt to unravel the great story this superb embroidery tells in the light of contemporary art and literature, especially the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, which provides an almost continuous narrative of the events leading up to and including 1066, one of the most well-known years in English history.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be illustrated with digital images of scenes from the Tapestry and with my editions and translations of selected passages from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* for study, as well as the family trees of the leading characters and a map of the locations mentioned.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- become acquainted with both the art and narrative of the Tapestry and the primary sources for the period, especially the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*;
- recognise the importance of the Battle of Hastings in the context of the 11th century and how the understanding of its significance has changed in English history over the centuries,
- appreciate the usefulness of the comparative approach to the study of Anglo-Norman history and culture.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Allen Brown, R, *The Normans and the Norman Conquest* (London 1969)
Barlow, F, *Edward the Confessor* (London 1970; Yale 1997)
Barlow, F, *The Godwins* (Pearson Longman 2002)
Backhouse, J. (ed.), *The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art* (British Museum, 1984)
Bridgeford, A, *1066: The Hidden History in the Bayeux Tapestry* (Walker 2005)
Brink, S. & Price, N. (eds), *The Viking World* (Routledge 2008)
Heywood, J, *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* (Penguin 1995)
Hicks, C., *The Bayeux Tapestry: The Life Story of a Masterpiece* (Chatto & Windus 2006)
Higham, R. & P. Barker, *Timber Castles* (London 1992; Exeter 2004)
Howard Bloch, R, *A Needle in the Right Hand of God: The Norman Conquest of 1066 and the Making and Meaning of the Bayeux Tapestry* (Random House 2006)
Jones, G, *A History of the Vikings* (2nd Edition, Oxford 1984)
Liddiard, R. (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Castles* (Woodbridge 2003)
Magnusson, Magnus, & Hermann Pálsson, *King Harald's Saga* (Penguin Classics 1966)
Muntz, H, *The Golden Warrior: the story of Harold and William* (Chatto & Windus 1950)
Musset, L, *The Bayeux Tapestry*, tr. R. Rex (Boydell 2005)
Swanton, M.(ed. & tr.), *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (Dent 1996; Phoenix 2000)
Williams, A, *The English and the Norman Conquest* (Boydell 1995)
Wilson, D, *The Bayeux Tapestry* (Thames & Hudson 1985)

Website addresses

http://www.bayeuxmuseum.com/en/la_tapisserie_de_bayeux_en.html
<http://www.kemble.asnc.cam.ac.uk/>
www.wuffingeducation.co.uk

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

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