



Universität des Saarlandes  
Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft sowie  
Übersetzen und Dolmetschen

## Unit 5

# Middle Ages

C10—C15

Introduction to Culture Studies (UK & Ireland)

1 June 2017 (N.S.)

19 May 2017 (O.S.)

Robert Spence

CS

# A brief incursion into geography

Middle Ages

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- Whereabouts in the East Riding of Yorkshire is Stamford Bridge?

<http://tinyurl.com/wheresstamfordbridge>

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<http://tinyurl.com/wheresstamfordbridge>
- Whereabouts in East Sussex is Hastings?  
<http://tinyurl.com/whereshastings>
- How quickly can you get from Stamford Bridge to Hastings?

# Who are these people and what are they doing?

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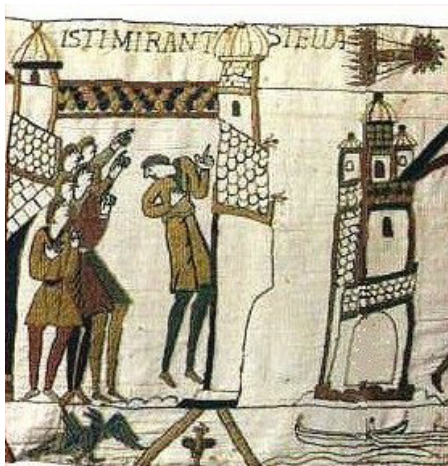
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- [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Tapestry\\_of\\_bayeux10.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Tapestry_of_bayeux10.jpg)

# What might've happened if ...

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- Britain had never become part of the Roman Empire?

## What might've happened if ...

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- Ireland had become part of the Roman Empire?

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## What might've happened if ...

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- Britain and/or Ireland had become part of the Roman Empire, but the Roman Empire had never ended?



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- Harold Godwinson had lost against Harald Hardrada?

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- England and Ireland had never been invaded by Vikings?
- Harold Godwinson had lost against Harald Hardrada?
- Harold Godwinson had won against William of Normandy?

# Timeline and dynasties

- 1066 Norman
- 1154 Plantaganet
- 1399 Lancaster
- 1461 York
- 1485 Tudor
- See the family tree on your handout.

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# Timeline and major wars

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- 1066 Norman Conquest of England
- 1169–1172 Norman Invasion of Ireland
- 1283 Conquest of Wales
- 1337–1453 Hundred Years' War (England/France)
- 1455–1485 Wars of the Roses

# The mediaeval warm period

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- The climate of the high middle ages in Europe was unusually warm.
- More successful agriculture.
- Increase in population (health + longevity = numbers) from about 1050 onwards.
- Economic, social, and cultural progress.

# Average temperatures 1AD – 2000 AD

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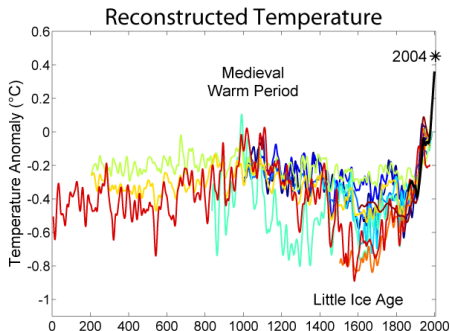
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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval\\_Warm\\_Period](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval_Warm_Period)



# The Great Famine of 1315–1317

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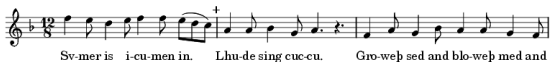
- Three years of nearly constant rain.
- Crop failures.
- Widespread starvation; population increase ended.
- Political instability, decreased authority of the Church.

<http://tinyurl.com/GreatFamine1315>

# Sumer is icumen in



- A famous canon from the middle ages.
- Generally considered to be the oldest canon.
- Text in Middle English (Mod. Engl., German: see handout)
- Click [HERE](#) to hear a rendition of it.



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- The best way to explain the emergence of feudalism in Europe out of the ruins of the Roman Empire is ...

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- to take an example from Japan, where feudalism lasted until the middle of the nineteenth century:

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- to take an example from Japan, where feudalism lasted until the middle of the nineteenth century:
- Akira Kurosawa: The Seven Samurai (1954)

# Overview of mediaeval society in England (1)

Middle Ages

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- Anglo-Saxon communities originally consisted of families of free farmers

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- with a very equitable system of land ownership.

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- <http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2009-08-20-graeber-en.html>

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- After the Norman conquest, England was the most highly centralized feudal society in Europe

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- After the Norman conquest, England was the most highly centralized feudal society in Europe
- Unlike in France, the King had real power over virtually the whole country

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- At the same time, there was a switch towards commodity production (esp. wool for export to Flanders).

# Honi soit qui mal y pense

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# Some notes on mediaeval society in Ireland

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