The midterm will be available on Canvas  
Friday, October 22, at 8 am to Tuesday, October 26, at 11:59 pm

The midterm will be timed: you will have one hour to complete the exam once you hit start, so make sure you’re ready to complete the exam before you log in.

Please ignore your automatically generated score on the exam. Canvas is unreliable at grading write in answers, but there is no way to turn off the auto-grade feature. We know this is an issue and will be manually regrading each quiz.

Note that you are being tested on what you learned IN THIS CLASS, not what you learned in another class, from Wikipedia, or from any other website. Be sure your answers come from lecture and our textbook.

I: Definitions – 20%
20 of these will appear on the midterm, you will have to match them to their definitions (consult the glossary on the course website and your lecture notes). 1 point each; 20 points total.

1. burh  
2. fyrd  
3. thegn  
4. gebur  
5. wergeld  
6. hide  
7. hundred  
8. shire  
9. tenant-in-chief  
10. baron  
11. sake and soke  
12. sokeman  
13. fief  
14. vassal  
15. seissin  
16. villein  
17. homage  
18. fealty  
19. geld  
20. sheriff  
21. writ  
22. manor  
23. demesne  
24. bailiff  
25. pannage  
26. corvée  
27. patrimony  
28. relief  
29. Exchequer  
30. pleas of the Crown  
31. curia regis  
32. privileges  
33. burgesses  
34. burghers  
35. papal legate  
36. knight service  
37. knight’s fee  
38. ordeal  
39. prelate  
40. abbot  
41. bishop  
42. primogeniture  
43. penance  
44. marcher lord
II: Short Answer Questions – 60%

30 of these will appear on the midterm, you will answer all of them (consult your lecture notes and Clanchy). For questions involving people, you must include the person’s first name along with some identifier to receive full credit (e.g. Anselm of Canterbury, Robert Curthose, or Henry I; NOT just Anselm, Robert, or Henry). 2 points each; 60 points total.

1. What did the Romans call the people who inhabited the island of Britain?
2. Are the terms English and Anglo-Saxon interchangeable? (yes or no)
3. Which missionary arrived in England in 596 to Christianize the Anglo-Saxons?
4. At what battle did Alfred the Great defeat Guthram?
5. What was the Danish-held area of England called in the 9th and 10 centuries?
6. Does the jury have English roots, or Scandinavian roots?
7. Which English king first levied the Danegeld?
8. Which Danish king conquered England in 1013?
9. Which king of England made Godwin earl of Wessex?
10. Which king of France ceded Normandy to Rollo in 911?
11. How were Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror related?
12. How were Harold Godwinson and Edward the Confessor related?
13. Which prelate traditionally consecrates English kings?
14. In what battle were Harald Hardrada and Tostig Godwinson killed?
15. Name the three English earls that were left in place after the Norman Conquest.
16. Who was archbishop of Canterbury in 1066?
17. In which battle did William the Conqueror defeat Harold Godwinson?
18. What did William the Conqueror build on the battlefield where he defeated Harold to atone for the sins he had committed in killing so many people?
19. What are the two great symbols of the Norman occupation of England?
20. What is the technical term for the earliest wooden castles built by the Normans?
21. How much of England did William the Conqueror keep for himself?
22. What was the name of the type of official William the Conqueror relied upon to execute his orders in the shires?
23. What is the name of the short, written commands that English kings sent to their officials?
24. What is the name for the brutal suppression of rebellions in the north of England that William the Conqueror carried out in 1070 (it included depopulating large areas of Yorkshire)?
25. What year was Domesday Book completed (as completed as it got)?
26. What does TRE stand for? (Give your answer in English or Latin)
27. What does the abbreviation d. stand for (it was the basic unit of currency in 11th century England)?
28. Did slavery exist in 11th century England?
29. What language replaced English as the language of government following the Norman Conquest?
30. What language did the Normans speak?
31. What year did William the Conqueror die?
32. Which of William the Conqueror’s sons became duke of Normandy when William died?
33. Which of William the Conqueror’s sons became king of England when William died?
34. What did William the Conqueror’s son Henry receive as his inheritance when his father died?
35. Which of William the Conqueror’s sons mortgaged Normandy in order to participate in the First Crusade?
36. Where did the early Norman kings spend most of their time, in England or Normandy?
37. Where was William Rufus killed and what was he doing?
38. Who killed William Rufus?
39. In what city was the English royal treasury kept?
40. Where was Robert Curthose when Henry took the English throne?
41. What document containing promises of good government was Henry I forced to issue in order to gain support for his coronation?
42. Who was Henry I’s first wife and why did he marry her?
43. In which battle did Henry I capture Robert Curthose and take Normandy from him?
44. What year did Robert Curthose die?
45. What governmental institution developed during Henry I’s reign as a means of keeping track of the revenue brought in by sheriffs?
46. Was concealing the discovery of buried treasure considered a “plea of the crown” during Henry I’s reign?
47. What is the Latin name of the highest court in England (the court comprised of the king with his barons and prelates that served as the final court of appeals)?
48. What heir to the English throne drowned in the sinking of the White Ship in 1120?
49. Did Henry I have any children with his second wife, Adeliza of Louvain?
50. Which of Stephen’s brothers helped him secure the English throne when Henry I died and what was his title?
51. Who was Empress Matilda’s second husband?
52. Why was Robert of Gloucester excluded from the English succession?
53. What year did Robert of Gloucester formally renounce his homage to Stephen and declare his support for Matilda?
54. Name the three bishops Stephen arrested in 1139, thereby losing the support of much of the English clergy.
55. What did Stephen take from the three bishops he arrested in 1139?
56. Which of the bishops Stephen arrested in 1139 had been Henry I’s Chancellor and was left in charge of England when Henry was away?
57. Who was captured at the Battle of Lincoln in 1141?
58. Was Empress Matilda ever queen of England?
59. What year did Stephen lose Normandy to Geoffrey of Anjou?
60. What year did Robert of Gloucester die?
61. What treaty ended the Anarchy in 1153?
62. Historians refer to Henry II’s lands as the ________ Empire.
III. Primary Source Analysis – 20%

The following excerpts are from primary sources we have read for class. All of these will appear on the exam, you will discuss the context and content of ONE of them. Answers should do the following:

1. Explain what the text is (e.g. what type of source is it, what is the source about, what do we know about the author, what do we know about where his information comes from, what is the author’s bias, and are there any other issues with the source that need to be taken into account). This should take no more than a sentence or two; you should focus your efforts on the next two points.

2. Analyze the quote (briefly explain where the quote is situated in the text and explain what is going on in the quote itself).

3. Explain how this quote fits in with contemporary themes and/or events discussed in lecture and the textbook (make sure you get your chronology right; if a quote came out of a text produced during the eleventh century, connect it to eleventh-century themes and events, not themes and events from the twelfth century).

Answers should be about 300 words in length. 20 points total.


He himself participated in the mystery of the Mass with the greatest devotion, and strengthened his body and soul by receiving in communion the body and blood of the Lord. He hung around his neck in humility the relics whose protection Harold had forfeited by breaking the oath that he had sworn on them. Two bishops who had accompanied him from Normandy, Odo of Bayeux and Geoffrey of Coutances, were in his company, together with numerous clerks and not a few monks. This clerical body prepared for the combat with prayers.

2. Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, an. 1066

There he was met by Archbishop Aldred and Edgar Cild, and Earl Edwin and Earl Morcar, and all the chief men from London. And they submitted out of necessity after most damage had been done – and it was a great piece of folly that they had not done it earlier, since God would not make things better, because of our sins. And they gave hostages and swore oaths to him, and he promised them that he would be a gracious liege lord, and yet in the meantime they ravaged all that they overran.


In the same year, after Easter, Robert Earl of Gloucester, for whose wisdom King Stephen had the greatest respect, came to England. He had weared his mind with much reflection, while he was in Normandy, on what he thought he should decide to do in this matter, for he saw that if he submitted to King Stephen it would be contrary to the oath he had taken to his sister, but understood that if he resisted it would bring no advantage to his sister or nephews and would certainly do enormous harm to himself.
Sample Excerpt
_The Song of Roland_, c. 1100
Roland said: “I shall sound the oliphant and Charles, who is going through the pass, will hear it. I pledge to you, the Franks will soon return.” Oliver said: “That would be most shameful and all your kinsmen would then be blamed; such shame would endure as long as they live. When I spoke to you of this, you did nothing. But you will not act so now on my advice. If you sound the horn, there will be no valour in it.”

Sample Analysis
(What is the text?) The _Song of Roland_ is a _chanson de geste_ that gives a fictionalized account of Charlemagne’s wars in Spain. It circulated orally for many years before being written down by an anonymous author. As a fictional account, it tells us very little about Charlemagne’s historical activities, but it does give us insight into chivalric culture around the year 1100. (Where is the quote situated in the text and what is going on in the quote?) Charlemagne’s nephew Roland has been put in charge of the king’s rear-guard as the army leaves Spain. Caught in a narrow pass, Roland and the rest of the rear-guard have been attacked by a much larger Saracen army. Although they are vastly outnumbered by the Saracens, Roland has thus far refused to sound his horn to call back the main body of the Frankish army, in spite of his companion Oliver’s pleas that he do so before the battle began. Now, after it has become clear that they will die, Roland finally sees the wisdom of blowing his horn and offers to call back the Franks. Oliver implies that in refusing to blow his horn before the fighting began, Roland accepted the terms of the battle. Oliver also argues that calling the army back now that the fighting has begun and the rear-guard is being defeated would indeed be a source of shame, not only for Roland, but for his kinsmen as well. While Oliver feels that calling for help before the battle began would have been wise (a virtue that Oliver embodies), he reminds Roland that calling for help when they are being beaten (and after Roland had committed to this course of action) is cowardly. (How does this quote fit in to the contemporary themes and/or events discussed in lecture and the textbook) The exchange between Roland and Oliver reflects the premium placed on reputation and honor in twelfth-century knightly society, as well as the overwhelming fear of shame in this society. This fear of shame and desire for honor is the most important motivator for knights like Roland and Oliver, and it was the most important way for real knights in the twelfth century to advance in a society organized for war. Honorable and valorous acts were rewarded by lords, while a knight who shamed himself by acting dishonorably could expect no advancement. It is particularly important to note that just as one’s honor reflects well on one’s family, doing anything shameful will affect not only an individual, but all of their kin as well. Roland’s actions will affect not just himself, but everyone to whom he is related.