

1066: England's Turning Point

Course Description

This is a six-week course covering the period of British settlement from pre-history to the pivotal Battle of Hastings in 1066. The course is lecture based and uses PowerPoint to present images and video of the course material.

Weekly Layout:

Pre-History to the Roman Conquest – The course begins with an overview of Britain's history from ancient hunter-gatherers to the Roman conquest and settlement. Participants will learn how Roman influence shaped Britain and left a lasting impact on its culture and development

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms – The Anglo-Saxon period in history, spanning the 5th to the 11th century in Britain, witnessed the migration of Germanic tribes, the establishment of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, and the spread of Christianity. This era laid the foundation for English culture, language, and governance.

Viking Raiders – The Viking raids on Britain, occurring from the late 8th to the early 11th century, marked a tumultuous period of invasions and settlements by Norse seafarers. These raids led to significant cultural exchange, the creation of Viking-controlled territories, and ultimately, the emergence of England as a unified kingdom under King Æthelstan.

Danish Invaders – Danish rule in Britain, notably during the 9th and 10th centuries, saw Danish Vikings establish a presence, leading to the creation of areas where English Law was replaced with Danish Law—an area that became known as the Danelaw. It introduced Norse customs, but conflicts ultimately resulted in the English reclaiming control, influencing the future development of England.

Norman Conquest – The Norman Conquest of Britain in 1066, led by William the Conqueror, saw the Normans defeat the English at the Battle of Hastings. This event reshaped Britain's political and cultural landscape, introducing Norman feudalism, castles, and the French language, which merged with Old English to create Middle English.