Course Overview and Student Learning Outcomes:
This course is a graduate research seminar designed to formulate professional research and writing skills for academic historians. The ultimate goal is for students to produce a research paper suitable for presentation at an academic conference. Our topic is one of pivotal importance for European history. In our readings and discussions we will examine the transformations of Frankish Gaul and Anglo-Saxon Britain in the aftermath of the disintegration of Roman imperial authority to examine the nature of politics, culture and society which resulted. An over-arching theme to our examinations is the question of whether these post-Roman societies reflect continuity or catastrophe.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:
The main requirement of the course is the production of a research paper of roughly fifteen pages on a relevant topic of your choice. It will constitute 70% of the course grade. The remaining 20% of your grade will consist of two short papers (20%) and class participation (10%). Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory. Late papers will not be accepted.

Final Withdrawal Date: Monday, March 27

Required Books:
Edward James, The Franks
Henry Mayr-Harting, The Coming of Christianity to Anglo-Saxon England
Gregory of Tours, History of the Franks
Bede, Ecclesiastical History of the English People

Optional:
Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations

Calendar of Meetings and Assignments (subject to change with prior notification):

January 17  Course Introduction
January 24  Discussion of James, The Franks; book review due

February 14  Discussion of Mayr-Harting


March 7  Short Paper Due – Miracles in Bede and Gregory of Tours; Presentation of Research Ideas

March 14  No meeting – Spring Break

March 21  Individual Consultations with Instructor

March 28  No meeting

April 4  No meeting

April 11  Presentations/Commentaries - Initial Drafts

April 18  Individual Consultations with Instructor

April 25  No meeting

May 2  Presentations/Commentaries - Final Drafts