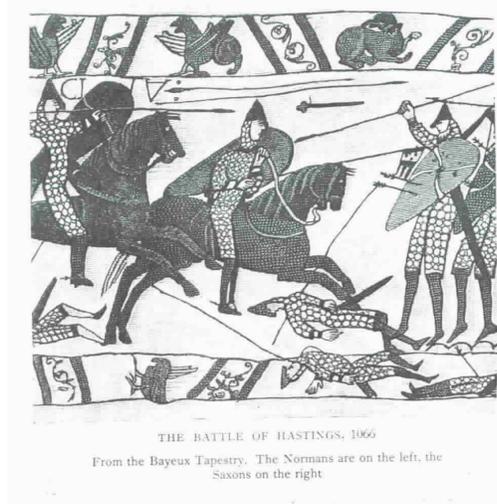


# History 4331: The Normans

## 5:30-8:30 pm Thursdays

History Capstone Seminar  
Professor Sally N. Vaughn



This class is a Capstone Seminar, which seeks to teach you both the substance of the class subject, The Normans and their World, and the professional methodology of historical research and writing. The Normans were originally Danish and Norse Vikings who conquered the French territory of Neustria and gave it a new name: Normandy. They are perhaps best known for that seminal date, 1066—the date the French Viking/Norman William the Conqueror conquered England—wrongly thought to be in one battle, The Battle of Hastings. In reality, the conquest was not complete for almost 100 years, and had many consequences for England. But England was not the only place the Normans went: virtually unknown to the general public is the simultaneous Norman Conquest of southern Italy from the Lombards and Byzantines; and of Muslim Sicily. Moreover, Normans were active in the Reconquista of Spain, and on the First Crusade they played crucial roles in the Conquest of Jerusalem. So you see there are many myths we will dispell in this class, as well as adding much new information to your store of knowledge about the Normans.

Our teaching methodology will be guidance in research and writing, and learning Norman history by discovery and by sharing and co-teaching. After reading an overview—Marjory Chibnall, *The Normans*—for the second night of class, each of you will choose a Research Topic. Below is a list of possible topics, but you may invent your own topic from your reading—and the choice is almost infinite. **THE GOAL OF THE CLASS IS TO PREPARE AND PRESENT to the class A “CONFERENCE” PAPER OF 20 MINUTES, OR 10 PAGES., complete with proper historical footnotes and bibliography. You will be given a sample of such a paper.**