

History 374, Fall 2004
Instructor: Kaarin Michaelsen

MWF, 2 p.m.
225 McIver

"British History, 1688-2004"

This upper-division course surveys British history from the late 17th century until the present day. Using intellectual treatises, novels, short stories, music, plays, and other primary sources, students will examine the major landmarks in the social, political, intellectual, and cultural history of the diverse peoples of the British Isles -- the "Glorious" Revolution of 1688, the creation of the world's first "modern," democratic, liberal nation in the 19th century, the construction and decline of global empires, world wars, punk rock, the Thatcher Revolution, and the emergence of Tony Blair and "Cool Britannia" in the late 20th century.

Required Readings

The following books are required for this course and are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore in Elliot University Center and at Addam's Bookstore on Tate Street. Copies of the books will also be placed on reserve in Jackson Library.

Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today: 1830 to the Present, 8th Edition*.
Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (Penguin).
Dickens, *Hard Times* (Bantam Classics).
Shaw, *Major Barbara* (Penguin).
Graves, *Goodbye To All That* (Anchor).

Other short readings for this course will be available via electronic reserve through Jackson Library.

Grading

Grades for this course will be assigned according to the following scheme:

20% -- Midterm 1
20% -- Midterm 2
15% -- Paper
35% -- Final
10% -- Participation (includes attendance, **talking** during class discussions, and written responses to readings)

Exams

There will be two midterm exams in this course. **Midterm 1** will be held on **Monday, September 20th**. **Midterm 2** will be held on **Monday, October 25th**. Each exam will consist of identifications (based upon the Key Word terms listed on each lecture outline and posted on the web site) and an essay portion. The **Final Exam** will be held on **Monday, December 13th**,

from **12:00 - 3:00 p.m.** in **225 McIver**. The exam will consist of a Key Word ID section, a passage ID section (drawn from the assigned documents for this course), and an essay portion. Make up exams will only be given in extreme circumstances (e.g. serious illness, bereavement), and a note must accompany requests. No "Incomplete" grades will be given.

Paper

There will be one major written assignment in this course, an essay of no less than ten (10) pages on a topic to be assigned in advance. A choice of topics will be provided approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the due date, and students will be expected to draw upon the readings for the course in producing their essay. The paper will be due on **Monday, November 22 by 4 p.m.** in the History Department main office (221 McIver).

Syllabus

August 16: Introduction: From "Rule Britannia" to "Cool Britannia"

SECTION 1: POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE IN THE LONG 18TH CENTURY

August 18: 1688: A Glorious, Bloodless (!) Revolution and a New Political World

August 20: The Making of a Great *British* Power, 1690-1715

August 23: Whigs and Tories: Politics and Political Culture in the Age of Party

August 25: Cultivating "Taste": British Society in the 18th Century

August 27: Methodism and the Religious Complexion of Britain

August 30: Kaarin's out of town! No Class!

September 1: **Discussion: *Sense and Sensibility***

Reading: Xeroxed chapters from Arnstein and Willcox
Sense and Sensibility

SECTION 2: THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

September 3: Forging the First British Empire

September 6: Labor Day Holiday! No Class!

September 8: Radicalism at Home, Rebellion Abroad: Or, The American Revolution

September 10: **Discussion: American Revolution Documents**

Reading: Cartwright, "The Need for Radical Reform" (1776) (E-Reserve)
Burke, "Conciliation with America" (1775)
Tucker, "The True Interests of Great Britain Set Forth in Regard to the Colonies" (1774) (ER)
George III, "Speech from the Throne" (1775) (ER)
Anonymous, "A Criticism of the Declaration of Independence" (1776) (ER)

September 13: Quelle Excitement! Quelle Horreur!: The French Revolution in Britain
September 15: "No Identification in Anything": The Act of Union with Ireland
September 17: **Discussion: French Revolution Documents**

Reading: Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France" (1790) (ER)
Paine, "The Rights of Man" (1791) (ER)
More, "Village Politics" (1793) (ER)

September 20: **Midterm Exam 1**

SECTION 3: BUILDING THE VICTORIAN LIBERAL STATE

September 22: Life in the First Industrial Society
September 24: The Victorian Liberal State and Its Subjects

September 27: The Price of Progress: Liberalism's "Triumphs"
September 29: The Great Rivalry: Disraeli and Gladstone
October 1: **Discussion: *Hard Times***

Reading: Arnstein, pp. 7-18, 24-30, Chapters 3 and 8
Hard Times
Ure, "The Philosophy of Manufactures" (1834) (ER)

SECTION 4: BRITISH CIVILIZATION AT HOME AND ABROAD

October 4: The Changing Landscape of Victorian Society
October 6: Victorianism and Its Critics
October 8: Fall Break Holiday! No Class!

October 11: Fall Break Holiday! No Class!
October 13: "The Sun Never Sets...": Building the Second British Empire
October 15: **Discussion: Imperialism Documents**

Reading: Arnstein, Chapters 5, 10, and 11 (pp. 191-199)
Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (1936) (ER)
Grieg, "Shall We Retain Our Colonies?" (1851) (ER)
Disraeli, "The Maintenance of Empire" (1872) (ER)
Gladstone, "England's Mission" (1878) (ER)

SECTION 5: NEW VOICES, NEW CHALLENGES AT THE FIN-DE-SIECLE

October 18: Liberal Socialism or Social Liberalism?
October 20: The Strange Death of Liberal England
October 22: **Discussion: *Major Barbara***
October 25: **Midterm Exam 2**

Reading: Arnstein, Chapters 11 (pp. 199-210) and 12
Major Barbara

SECTION 6: THE GREAT WAR AND THE BIRTH OF THE 20TH CENTURY

October 27: "Goodbye to All That": Britain and the Great War
October 29: Re-Building "Middle England"

November 1: Crises and (Imperfect) Resolutions in Ireland
November 3: **Discussion:** *Goodbye to All That*

Reading: Arnstein, Chapters 15 and 16
Goodbye to All That

SECTION 7: THE ROAD TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR

November 5: "Peace for Our Time"?: Britain in the 1930s

November 8: "Their Finest Hour"?: World War II

Reading: Arnstein, Chapters 17 and 18
Optional Film: "Hope and Glory"

SECTION 8: POST-WAR BRITAIN, 1945-1979

November 10: Creating the "New Jerusalem": The Politics of Affluence and Consensus
November 12: The End of Empire and the New, Multicultural Britain

November 15: Swinging in the "Permissive Society": Britain in the 1960s
November 17: "Anarchy in the UK": Punk and the End of Consensus Politics
November 19: **Discussion: Post-War Documents**

Reading: Arnstein, Chapters 19, 20, and 21
Powell, "Rivers of Blood Speech" (1968) (ER)
Churchill, "A Protest Against Britain's 'Shameful Flight'" (1947) (ER)
Excerpts from *The Times* on the Notting Hill Riots (1958) (ER)
Optional Film: "My Beautiful Laundrette"

THANKSGIVING BREAK! NO CLASS!

November 22: **Paper Due in 221 McIver by 4 p.m.** No Class!
November 24: Thanksgiving Holiday! No Class!
November 26: Thanksgiving Holiday! No Class!

SECTION 9: BRITAIN IN A POST-MODERN WORLD

November 29: The Thatcher Revolution and Its Discontents
December 1: 1997 and Britain's Future: New Labour and "Cool Britannia"
December 3: **Discussion: Conservative and Labour Election Documents**

December 6: The Janus Dilemma: "Britain" and "Britishness" in the 21st Century

Reading: Arnstein, Chapters 22 and 23
Thatcher, Speech to the Conservative Party Conference (1975) (ER)
Kinnock and Thatcher, Debate on the Thatcher Government (1987) (ER)
Blair, Speech to the Labour Party Conference (1997) (ER)
Optional Film: "Brassed Off!"

Final Exam: Monday, December 13, 12:00-3:00 p.m. in our usual room.