

**HIS 374 01: *British History, 1688 to the Present***  
**MWF: 9:00-9:50 a.m., MHRA 1214**

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**Professor:** Jill Bender

**Office:** MHRA 2111

**Office Hours:** Mondays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; Fridays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; and by appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides a historical survey of Britain, from the late-seventeenth century to the present. During these 300+ years, the British electorate increased dramatically, the British Empire reached its widest expanse, the British Empire collapsed, and the Beatles took the music world by storm. It was, in other words, an exciting time of significant change for Britain. We will study this change by examining and analyzing a variety of historical sources – from political documents to novels to music to films. Specific course themes include the ramifications of Britain’s industrial development, contestations over political power, and Britain’s changing role as a world power. The course will focus on Britain, but an effort will be made to examine the country’s history within a global context.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and the give the significance of the major events, people, and debates in the history of modern Britain. (SLO 1)
  2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. (SLO 2)
  3. Use evidence based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting a written argument. (SLO 3)
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**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

The following books are required and available for purchase at the university bookstore:

Stephanie Barczewski, John Eglin, Stephen Heathorn, Michael Silvestri, and Michelle Tusan, *Britain Since 1688: A Nation in the World* (London and New York: Routledge, 2015).

Rebecca West, *The Return of the Soldier* (Penguin, 1998).

All other reading material will be available on the course Canvas site, accessible through Jackson Library, or distributed in class.

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## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Participation**

While most classes will involve some discussion, please note that a number of class meetings will be entirely devoted to discussion and group work. These classes provide students an opportunity to engage with and discuss the assigned readings in depth. Students should come to classes labeled “DISCUSSION” ready to participate – in other words, having read the assigned readings, taken notes, and prepared questions and/or comments. *Students must bring a copy of the assigned readings and their notes to class meetings.*

### **Papers (SLO 2 and SLO 3)**

Students will write two papers over the course of the semester (due September 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>). These papers are designed to build student understanding of primary and secondary source analysis. All papers should be uploaded to Canvas by 5pm on the day they are due. Additional information on each paper topic will be provided in advance.

All papers need to be double-spaced, with 12-point font, and standard margins. Please cite sources using footnotes or endnotes. Plagiarism is a breach of the university’s academic integrity policy.

For more information on this policy, see <http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/violation/plagiarism/>.

### **Sourcing Exercise (SLO 2)**

Students will complete a short sourcing exercise in advance of our first DISCUSSION on August 30<sup>th</sup>. More information will be provided in advance.

### **Newspaper Exercise**

Students will complete a writing exercise based on contemporary newspapers. This assignment will be due, in class, on November 27<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available closer to the due date.

### **Exams (SLO 1, SLO2, and SLO 3)**

There will be two exams in this course. The mid-term exam will be on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The final exam will be on December 4<sup>th</sup>. More information will be provided in advance of both exams.

Unless a student can provide a properly documented excuse (preferably in advance), there will be no make-up exam for either the midterm or the final exam—mark your calendars now!

### **Grading**

Grades will be based on the following aspects of student performance: (1) sourcing exercise (2) papers (3) newspaper exercise (4) exams and (5) participation (including any in-class assignments).

The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

<b>Sourcing Exercise</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Papers</b>	<b>35% total</b>

Paper #1	15%
Paper #2	20%
<b>Newspaper Exercise</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Exams</b>	<b>35% total</b>
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
<b>Participation and in-class assignments</b>	<b>15%</b>

### Grading Scale

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 0-59
A: 93-96	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

UNCG seeks to adhere to the ADA and provide equal access to a college education. Students with any questions or needs related to academic accommodations for disabilities should contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS), located in the Elliot University Center, Suite 215. For more information, please see <https://ods.uncg.edu>.

### Digital Devices

Unless instructed by the professor, please do not use laptop computers, cell phones, or other digital devices during class. Students with any extenuating circumstance (for example, appropriate documentation from OARS), should notify the professor immediately.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

\*This schedule is subject to change at the professor's discretion

#### WEEK ONE

Aug 14: *No Class*

Aug 16: Introduction

Aug 18: The Glorious Revolution I

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2, pages 24-34.

#### WEEK TWO

Aug 21: A Glorious Revolution II

Aug 23: Eighteenth-century society

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 2, pages 34-43.

Aug 25: Britain and its eighteenth-century Empire

**Reading:** Edmund Burke, *Speech in Commons on India*, 1783 (excerpt)  
Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 3.

### WEEK THREE

Aug 28: Britain and France

Aug 30: **DISCUSSION: *Responses to Revolution*** \*\*\*SOURCING EXERCISE DUE\*\*\*

**Reading:** Documents on the French Revolution  
Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 4.

Sept 1: The Industrial Revolution I

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### WEEK FOUR

Sept 4: *No Class*

Sept 6: The Industrial Revolution II

**Reading:** "Evidence given before the Sadler Committee, 1831-1832" (excerpt)

Sept 8: The Industrial Revolution III

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 5.

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### WEEK FIVE

Sept 11: **DISCUSSION: *The ramifications of the Industrial Revolution***

**Reading:** Documents on the Industrial Revolution

Sept 13: The Victorians I

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 6.

Sept 15: Archives I: Meet at the Hodges Reading Room, Special Collections & University Archives, UNCG Jackson Library

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### WEEK SIX

Sept 18: Archives II: Meet at the Hodges Reading Room, Special Collections & University Archives, UNCG Jackson Library

Sept 20: Victorians II

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 7.

Sept 22: Victorians III \*\*\*PAPER ONE DUE\*\*\*

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 8.

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### WEEK SEVEN

Sept 25: **DISCUSSION: *The Victorian Age***

**Reading:** Documents on Jack the Ripper  
Judith Walkowitz, "Jack the Ripper and the Myth of Male Violence," *Feminist Studies* 8:3 (Autumn 1982): 543-574.

Sept 27: The Great War I

Sept 29: The Great War II

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## WEEK EIGHT

Oct 2: DISCUSSION: *The Impact of World War I*

**Reading:** Rebecca West, *The Return of the Soldier*  
Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 9.

Oct 4: Suffrage Movements

Oct 6: Labour and the Left

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## WEEK NINE

Oct 9: *No Class*—Please note that October 9<sup>th</sup> is the last day to withdraw without incurring a WF grade (withdraw failing).

Oct 11: DISCUSSION: *The Interwar Years*

**Reading:** George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (excerpt)  
Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 10.

Oct 13: Midterm Review

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## WEEK TEN

Oct 16: \*\*\*Midterm Exam\*\*\*

Oct 18: The Era of Appeasement

Oct 20: The People's War I

**Reading:** Select speeches by Churchill

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## WEEK ELEVEN

Oct 23: The People's War II

Oct 25: DISCUSSION: *World War II*

**Reading:** Harrison, *Living Through the Blitz* (excerpt)  
Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 11.

Oct 27: Building a New Jerusalem

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 12.

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## WEEK TWELVE

Oct 30: Post-war British Culture I

Nov 1: Post-war British Culture II

Nov 3: *No Class*

**Reading:** Please watch the film, *Darling*, which will be on reserve in the library.

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## WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov 6: DISCUSSION: *The 1960s*

**Reading:** This week's discussion will be based on the film, *Darling*.

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Nov 8: Dismantling an Empire

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 13.

Nov 10: Post-Imperial Britain

\*\*\*PAPER TWO DUE\*\*\*

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#### WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov 13: Thatcher's Britain

Nov 15: DISCUSSION: *The Thatcher Years*

**Reading:** Salman Rushdie, "The New Empire Within Britain," 1982

Margaret Thatcher, "Speech to Conservative Rally at Cheltenham," July 3, 1982

Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 14.

Nov 17: "New Labour"

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#### WEEK FIFTEEN

Nov 20: The Road to Brexit

Nov 22: *No Class*

Nov 24: *No Class*

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#### WEEK SIXTEEN

Nov 27: DISCUSSION: *Brexit: To Stay or To Go?* \*\*\*NEWSPAPER EXERCISE  
DUE\*\*\*

**Reading:** Select newspaper articles on Brexit

Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 15.

Nov 29: Conclusion

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\*\*\*FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 4, 2017, 8:00-11:00 a.m.\*\*\*

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