

“British History, 1688-2009”

This upper-division lecture 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 -- including the "Glorious" Revolution of 1688, the rise of "Victorianism" and its critics, the construction and decline of global empires, world wars, the "Swinging Sixties," 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 Addams Bookstore. Copies of the books will also be placed on reserve in Jackson Library. Note: The editions listed below are those in stock at the bookstores; other editions are *perfectly acceptable* substitutes and can often be purchased at substantially cheaper prices via the Internet.

Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (Penguin).
Dickens, *Hard Times* (Bantam Classics).
Shaw, *Major Barbara* (Penguin).

Other short readings for this course will be available via Electronic Reserve through Jackson Library. I will also be distributing Xerox copies of chapters from the supplemental textbooks, Arnstein's *Britain Yesterday and Today, 8th Edition, Vols. 3 and 4*, in class.

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 **Tuesday, February 24th**. **Midterm 2** will be held on **Thursday, April 2nd**. 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 **Saturday, May 9th** from **12:00-3:00 p.m.** in **2207 MHRA**. 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 writing assignment in this course, an essay of no less than eight (8) 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 **Friday, April 24th** at **5 p.m.** Papers will be submitted electronically; details will be forthcoming.

Weather Information

On days when the weather looks “iffy,” please be sure to call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line **(336) 334-4000** or look on the UNCG home page (**www.uncg.edu**) for updates. I will also post notices regarding class scheduling on the course Blackboard site. If there is a delayed opening of campus that runs into our normal class time, please come to class **as soon as** the delay is over; our class meetings will run through the end of the regularly scheduled period.

Plagiarism Policy

UNCG takes the Academic Integrity Policy extremely seriously, as do I. Any work submitted that is found to contain plagiarized material will immediately receive a failing grade, and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the University’s policies.

Syllabus

January 20: Introduction: From “This Sceptered Isle” to “Cool Britannia”

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

January 22: 1688: A Glorious, Bloodless (!) Revolution and a New Political World

January 27: Whigs and Tories: Politics and Political Culture in the Age of Party, 1715-1760

January 29: Cultivating “Taste”: Society and Religion in 18th Century Britain

February 3: **Discussion: *Sense and Sensibility***

Reading: Arnstein, Vol. 3, Chapters 1, 2, and 4 (Xerox)
Sense and Sensibility

SECTION 2: THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

February 5: "Rule Britannia": Forging the First *British* Empire

February 10: Radicalism at Home, Rebellion Abroad: Or, The American Revolution
February 12: **Discussion: American Revolution Documents**

Reading: Arnstein, Vol. 3, Chapters 7 and 8 (Xerox)
Cartwright, "The Need for Radical Reform" (1776) (E-Reserve)
Burke, "Conciliation with America" (1775) (ER)
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)

February 17: Quelle Excitement! Quelle Horreur!: The French Revolution in Britain
February 19: **Discussion: French Revolution Documents**

Reading: Arnstein, Vol. 3, Chapter 11 (Xerox)
Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France" (1790) (ER)
Paine, "The Rights of Man" (1791) (ER)
More, "Village Politics" (1793) (ER)

February 24: **Midterm Exam 1**

SECTION 3: BUILDING THE VICTORIAN LIBERAL STATE

February 26: Life in the First Industrial Society

March 3: The 19th Century Liberal State: Its Subjects, "Triumphs," and Limitations
March 5: **Discussion: *Hard Times***

Reading: Arnstein Vol. 4, Chapters 1 (pp. 7-18, 24-30) and 3 (Xerox)
Hard Times
Ure, "The Philosophy of Manufacturers" (1834) (ER)

SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS! :)

SECTION 4: BRITISH CIVILIZATION AT HOME AND ABROAD

March 17: Victorian Society and Its Critics
March 19: **Discussion: *Major Barbara***

Reading: Arnstein, Vol. 4, Chapters 5, 8, and 11 (pp. 199-210) (Xerox)
Major Barbara

March 24: "The Sun Never Sets...": Building the Second British Empire
March 26: **Discussion: Imperialism Documents**

Reading: Arnstein, Vol. 4, Chapter 10 (Xerox)
Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (1936) (ER)
Naoroji, "The Benefits of British Rule" (1871) (ER)
Grieg, "Shall We Retain Our Colonies?" (1851) (ER)
Disraeli, "The Maintenance of Empire" (1872) (ER)
Gladstone, "England's Mission" (1878) (ER)
Morel, "The Black Man's Burden" (1903) (ER)

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

March 31: The Strange Death of Liberal England

Reading: Arnstein, Vol. 4, Chapter 12 (Xerox)

April 2: **Midterm Exam 2**

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

April 7: "Goodbye to All That": Britain and the Great War

Reading: Arnstein, Vol. 4, Chapter 14 (Xerox)

SECTION 7: THE ROAD TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR

April 9: Crises and (Imperfect) Resolutions in Ireland

April 14: Diplomacy, Appeasement, and "Their Finest Hour"?

Reading: Arnstein, Vol. 4, Chapters 15, 17, and 18 (Xerox)
Optional Film: "Hope and Glory"

SECTION 8: POST-WAR BRITAIN, 1945-1979

April 16: The Creation of the "New Jerusalem" and the End of Empire

April 21: The "Permissive Society" or "Anarchy in the UK"?: Britain in the 1960s and 1970s
April 23: **Discussion: Post-War Documents**

Reading: Arnstein, Vol. 4, Chapters 19, 20, and 21 (Xerox)
Powell, "Rivers of Blood Speech" (1968) (ER)
Churchill, "A Protest Against Britain's 'Shameful Flight' from India" (1947) (ER)
Rushdie, "The New Empire Within Britain" (1982) (ER)

Levin, "Run it Down the Flagpole" (1970) (ER)

April 24: **Paper Due (Electronic Submissions) by 5 p.m.!** (Note: This is a Friday.)

SECTION 9: BRITAIN IN A POST-MODERN WORLD

April 28: Thatcherism, "New Labour," and "Cool Britannia"

April 30: The Janus Dilemma: "Britain" and "Britishness" in the 21st Century

Discussion: Election and Multiculturalism Documents

Reading:

Arnstein, Vol. 4, Chapters 22 and 23 (Xerox)

Thatcher, "Speech to the Conservative Party Conference" (1975) (ER)

Blair, "Speech to the Labour Party Conference" (1997) (ER)

Kureishi, "My Son the Fanatic" (ER)

Optional Films: "East is East" and "The History Boys"

Final Exam: **Saturday, May 9th, 12:00-3:00 p.m. in our usual room**