

**HIS 374 01: *British History, 1688 to the Present***  
**MWF: 1-1:50pm, MHRA 1214**

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**Professor:** Jill Bender

**Office:** MHRA 2116

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00 pm; 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 available on the course Canvas site, Jackson Library, or will be distributed in class.

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## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Participation**

To perform well in this course, you must attend all classes, take notes, and thoroughly engage with the assigned readings. 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 detail. Students must come to classes labeled “DISCUSSION” ready to participate – in other words, having read the assigned readings for the week, 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 be required to write two short papers over the course of the semester (due February 20<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>). These papers are designed to build your understanding of primary 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/>.

### **Newspaper Exercise**

Students will be required to complete a writing exercise based on contemporary newspapers. This assignment will be due, in class, on Monday, May 1<sup>st</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. Both exams will include an in-class and out-of-class portion. The mid-term exam will be on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final exam will be on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Review sheets 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 four different aspects of student performance: (1) papers (2) newspaper exercise (3) exams and (4) participation (including any in-class assignments). The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

<b>Papers</b>	<b>35% total</b>
Primary Source Analysis #1	15%
Primary Source Analysis #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>20%</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	

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## LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE:

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### WEEK ONE

**Jan 16:** *No Classes*

**Jan 18:** Introduction

**Jan 20:** The Glorious Revolution

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 1.

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### WEEK TWO

**Jan 23: DISCUSSION:** A Glorious Revolution?

**Reading:** Documents on the Glorious Revolution and its aftermath

**Jan 25:** *No Classes*

**Jan 27:** Eighteenth-century society

**Reading:** Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 2

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### WEEK THREE

**Jan 30:** Britain, Europe, and Empire

**Feb 1: DISCUSSION:** *Responses to Revolution*

**Reading:** Documents on the French Revolution  
Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapters 3 and 4.

**Feb 3:** The Industrial Revolution I

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### WEEK FOUR

**Feb 6:** The Industrial Revolution II  
**Feb 8:** The Industrial Revolution III  
**Feb 10: DISCUSSION:** *The ramifications of the Industrial Revolution*

**Reading:** Documents on the Industrial Revolution  
Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 5.

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## WEEK FIVE

**Feb 13:** The Victorians I  
**Feb 15:** Archives I: Meet at the Hodges Reading Room, Special Collections & University Archives, UNCG Jackson Library  
**Feb 17:** Archives II: Meet at the Hodges Reading Room, Special Collections & University Archives, UNCG Jackson Library

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

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## WEEK SIX

**Feb 20:** The Irish Famine **\*\*\*PAPER ONE DUE\*\*\***  
**Feb 22:** The Victorians II  
**Feb 24: DISCUSSION:** *The Victorian Age*

**Reading:** Judith Walkowitz, "Jack the Ripper and the Myth of Male Violence," *Feminist Studies* 8:3 (Autumn 1982): 543-574.  
Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapters 7 and 8.

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## WEEK SEVEN

**Feb 27:** The Great War  
**Mar 1: DISCUSSION:** *The Impact of WWI*

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

**Mar 3: \*\*\*HNAC Event\*\*\*** Please plan to attend *The Liberal Arts Advantage: Campus to Career*, 9am-2pm. Register at [hnac.uncg.edu](http://hnac.uncg.edu)

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## WEEK EIGHT

**Mar 6:** Suffrage Movements  
**Mar 8:** Labour and the Left

**Mar 10: DISCUSSION:** The Interwar Years

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

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**WEEK NINE**

**Mar 13: No Classes**

**Mar 15: No Classes**

**Mar 17: No Classes**

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**WEEK TEN**

**Mar 20:** Midterm Review

**Mar 22: \*\*\*Midterm Exam\*\*\***

**Mar 24:** The Era of Appeasement

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**WEEK ELEVEN**

**Mar 27:** The People's War

**Mar 29: DISCUSSION:** *World War II*

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

**Mar 31: No Class**

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**WEEK TWELVE**

**Apr 3:** Building a New Jerusalem

**Apr 5:** Post-war British Culture

**Apr 7: Film:** *Darling*

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

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**WEEK THIRTEEN**

**Apr 10: Film:** *Darling*

**Apr 12: DISCUSSION:** *The 1960s*

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

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

**Apr 14: No Classes**

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**WEEK FOURTEEN**

**Apr 17:** Dismantling an Empire

**Apr 19:** Post-Imperial Britain

**Apr 21:** Thatcher's Britain

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

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**WEEK FIFTEEN**

**Apr 24: 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.

**Apr 26:** "New Labour"

**Apr 28:** The Road to Brexit

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**WEEK SIXTEEN**

**May 1: DISCUSSION:** Brexit: To Stay or To Go?

**\*\*\*NEWSPAPER EXERCISE  
DUE\*\*\***

**Reading:** Select newspaper articles on Brexit  
Barczewski, et. al., *Britain Since 1688*, Chapter 15.

**May 2:** Conclusion

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**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 8, 2017, 3:30-6:30 p.m.\*\*\***

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