

HISTORY 51: MODERN BRITAIN, 1700-2007

Fall, 2007
Monday, Wednesday 3:30-5 PM
[classroom]

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CH 311E; X8-7404
Office Hours: Wed, 1:30-3 PM

This course traces the history of Great Britain as it acquired the world's largest empire and then retreated from virtually all of it. We begin in an era where monarchs led troops against the French and end in one where their spokesmen do battle against the British media. The course explores the interconnections of politics, economy, society, and culture in a country where the weight of "tradition" often newly invented masks constant changes. Through primary sources – novels, essays, films, and speeches – students will explore the reactions of British people to the problems of past and present.

Classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. Attendance and participation are required. Both are essential to a successful completion of the course. Students will have to download documents from the internet and to explore material on linked websites to prepare for discussions. Lectures do NOT repeat material in the assigned reading, but make connections among large issues and set a context for analyses. One text (Walter Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today*) is assigned to provide background. The course will have a Blackboard site with hyperlinks to useful websites. Van Pelt library's home page also has linkages to assigned materials in books available on line.

Requirements: There will be a final exam and 2 short, in-class quizzes on the reading in lieu of an hour exam. In addition, students will make one 10 minute oral presentation during the term based on independent research and will participate in an in-class debate. Students will write two essays (3 pages, 5 pgs) during the semester.

Grading:

Essays, 10% and 20 %
Final Exam, 30%
Quizzes, 20%
Class participation and oral report, 20%

Books to be purchased: (Penn Book Center, 34th and Sansom Sts.)

W. Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today*
L. Colley, *Britons*
D. Defoe, *Moll Flanders*

G.B. Shaw, *Five Unpleasant Plays*

K. Paul, *Whitewashing Britain*

Linked Websites for assigned documents.

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/> [good for WWI and WWII]

<http://victorianweb.org/>

<http://britishempire.co.uk>

Class Calendar

1. Introduction.
Sept. 5: High and Low Life in Hanoverian Britain

2. The Old Regime, British-style
Sept. 10: Power and its Limits, 1680-1760
Sept. 12: Land, Labor, and the Law; DISCUSSION of *Moll Flanders*
Reading: D. Defoe, *Moll Flanders*
Bill of Rights, 1689
[<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1689billofrights.html>]

3. War, Rights, and British Identity
Sept. 17: Empire and Expansion in the 18th c.
Sept. 19: Ideological Politics and the Rights of Englishmen
Reading: E. Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*,
[<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1791burke.html>]
T. Paine, *The Rights of Man*, excerpts
M. Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, excerpts
L. Colley, *Britons*, pp. 1-195

4. Transformations
Sept. 24: Modernization and the Industrial Revolution in Britain
Sept. 26: The Social Impact of Economic Change: DEBATE
Reading:
W. Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today*, chap 1 & 2; 3-32.
F. Engels, "Industrial Manchester, 1844"
(www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook14.html)
Andrew Ure, "The Philosophy of Manufacturers",
(www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1835ure.html)

Research Assignment #1: Locate in the Van Pelt library two additional documents on the social impact of industrialization. They should have different points of view. Compare arguments, aims, and values, and comment on why they differ. [3 pgs.]

5. Liberalism in Theory and in Practice

Oct. 1: Parliament, Reform, and the Middle Classes

Oct. 3 What did Liberals Want? DISCUSSION OF LIBERALISM

Reading:

J. S. Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, excerpts

Browse in www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook18.html (Liberalism)

W. Arnstein, chap. 3; 32-61

6. Victorianism

Oct. 8: The Crystal Palace and the Ethos of Consumption

Oct. 10: The Challenge of the Big City: Contemporary Views

Reading: W. Arnstein, chaps 5, 7, pp. 77-104, 121-134

Locate 2 documents written about London, 1850-1900 and think about representation of London and its people

W. Booth, *Bitter Cry of Outcast London*

<http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>

<http://www.iath.virginia.edu/london/Archive/Texts/index.html>

7. Rights Debates

Oct. 17: Contests over Race, Class, and Gender

Reading: W. Arnstein, chaps 8, 9, 11; 137-173, 191-208

8. The Many Forms of Empire

Oct. 22: The World View of an Imperial Power

Oct. 24: Africa, India, and the Imperialists: DISCUSSION OF KIPLING and LUGARD

Reading: Capt. F.D. Lugard, *The Rise of Our East African Empire*, excerpts

www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1893lugard.html

Earl Cromer, "Why Britain Acquired Egypt in 1882,"

www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1908cromer.html

R. Kipling, "The Enlightenments of Paget" (e-reserve)

W. Arnstein, chaps 6, chap 10; 105-120, 173-190

9. The Strange Death of Liberal England

Oct. 29: The Long-running Irish Question

Oct. 31: The New Woman : DISCUSSION of SHAW, PANKHURST

Reading: W. Arnstein, chaps. 12, 13; pp. 213-259

Sir Edward Carson, "The Case for Ulster," 1912

"Proclamation of the Irish Republic," 1916

G. B. Shaw, "Mrs. Warren's Profession," *Plays Unpleasant*

E. Pankhurst, "My Own Story,"

www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1914Pankurst.html

10. War and Society in the Twentieth Century

Nov. 5: Living through WWI

Nov. 7: How to Defeat Hitler (oral reports)

Reading: War poems, WWI

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1914warpoets.html>
<http://www.worldwar1.com/>
 Browse in www.bbc.co.uk/history for material on WWII
 Read at least one Churchill speech: library.byu.edu/~rdh/eurodocs/uk.html.
 W. Arnstein, chaps 14, 15, pt. 16, pp. 261-292.

11. Austerity meets the Beatles.

Nov. 12: Rebuilding Britain at home and abroad (oral reports)
 Nov. 14: Tensions in the 1960s (oral reports)
 Reading: W. Arnstein, pt. chapter 17 & 18, 332-359
 BBC on The Wolfenden Report
 (http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/4/newsid_3007000/3007686.stm)
 E. Powell, "Rivers of Blood" speech, 1968
 (<http://www.natfront.com/powell.html>)
 Film: *A Hard Day's Night*

12. Old Britain: New Britain

Nov. 19: Impact of the Welfare State: DISCUSSION OF ROSS and Film
 Nov 21: The Lure of Europe
 Film: *35 Up*
 Reading: Arnstein, chap. 19, 360-388
 Robert Moss, "Anglo-Communism," *Commentary*, Feb. 1977
 C. de Gaulle, "British Entry into the EEC," 1967
 (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1967-degaulle-non-uk.html>)

Paper drafts due, Research Assignment #2

13: End of Empire?

Nov. 26: Independence and Dependence
 Nov. 28: Race and Citizenship: DISCUSSION OF K. PAUL
 Reading: W.R.Louis and R.Robinson, "The Imperialism of Decolonization" *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 24, 3 (1996):345-363
 K. Paul, *Whitewashing Britain*.
 W. Arnstein, chap. 20, pp. 391-417.

14. Multi-cultural Britain

Dec. 3: Racial Conflict/Economic Conflict [**Final Paper Due**]
 Dec. 5: Thatcher, Blair, and Brown:
 Reading:
 W. Arnstein, chaps. 21, 22, pp.418-468.
 M. Thatcher, "Britain Awake" speech, 1976
 (<http://www.margaretthatcher.org/speeches/displaydocument.asp?docid=102939>)
 T. Blair, "New Labour Vision, 1994"
 (<http://www.australianpolitics.com/uk/labour/941004blair-new-labour-speech.shtml>)

Film: *My Beautiful Launderette*