History 124: Britain since 1688
Spring 2013
Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:15
1121 Mosse Humanities Building

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Teaching Assistants:

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The course introduces students to the major themes in the history of modern imperial Britain and to some of the ways historians have tried to make sense of it all. Such themes include (but not limited to) the changing patterns of life during those centuries, the development of modern identities and notions of the selves, the emergence of a modern, commercial civil society, the rise of industrial capitalism, liberalism, the modern state, and imperial and total war (for more details see the lecture schedule below). We will pay particular attention to gender in terms of both “lived experience” and representations of power (and its critique), and to the transnational nature of modern British history, largely, but not only, through the history of the economic, political, and cultural foundations of the modern British empire.

The course consists of two lectures per week and one discussion section. Attendance to both is required. The textbook is merely a teaching aid and is not a substitute for lectures (in other words, most of the material covered in the lectures does not appear in the textbook).

Required Books:
Textbook:

All books are available at the bookstore. However, are not required to purchase these particular editions. There are many other editions of the books available for purchase at a very low price. Wiley sells electronic editions of Wasson through their website.

In addition to the books there are numerous primary sources (marked with an ‘*’ on the course schedule). Most of these are available on the web (and are hyperlinked on this syllabus). Others are available in PDF format. Links to all sources are available at Learn@UW → Materials → Content → Course Reader. You are required to print the sources and bring the hard copy to discussion section.

Important – Monday sections only: Each week’s readings will be discussed on the Monday of the following week. For example, the readings for Week I will be discussed on the Monday of Week II.

Assignments and grading:
3-pp. paper: 10% (due 02/21)
Midterm: 20% (03/12, in class)
5-pp. paper: 25% (due 04/25)
Final: 30% (05/17, 2:45pm-4:45pm, location TBA)
Section: 15%

*Papers should be submitted in both a hard copy as well as electronically (Learn@UW → Assignments → Dropbox). No additional reading will be required for either paper.

*Your TA will discuss the components of your section grade in greater detail. Please note that active and enthusiastic participation in section, and hard work overall, will be rewarded!

Course Schedule

**Week I: Restoration**

01/22 Why Britain? Introduction and course mechanics.
01/24 Restoration Britain

Read:
*Gregory King’s “Social Table” for 1688 (1696) – handout in section.
*Richard Baxter on oppression of husbandmen (from Ann Hughes, *Seventeenth Century England*).
-Wasson, 15-35.
Week II: A Modern Polity

01/29  The Glorious Revolution
01/31  War, Finance, and Political Stability

Read:
* John Locke, Second Treatise on Government (1690) (at least chapter VII, sections 87-91).
- On the Glorious Revolution, read the relevant parts online from Wasson, Chapter 0.
- Wasson, chapter 2, 39-47.

Week III: Polite and Commercial People

02/05  The Enlightenment
02/07  Commercial Modernity and the Self

Read:
* Bernard Mandeville, "The Grumbling Hive" (1705) (entire)
* The First English Coffee Houses (1670s)
* Addison’s Allegory of Luxury and Avarice, Spectator (1711), from Mackie, 1998.
- Wasson, 9-14.

Week IV: The Age of Revolutions

02/12  Slavery and Abolition
02/14  The American and French Revolutions

Read:
Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative (entire).
- Wasson, chapter 3.

For next week’s discussion:
* Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France (1791)
* Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)
* Thomas Paine, The Rights of Man (1791) (excerpts)
Week V: Workshop of the World

02/19 The Industrial Revolution
02/21 The Politics of Class Society

Read:
*P. Gaskell, The Manufacturing Population of England (1833)
*Samuel Smiles, Self Help (1882)
-Wasson, 94-108.

-3 pp. paper due in class 02/21-

Week VI: Reform, Social and Political

02/26 Paupers and Criminals
02/28 Politics and the State

Read:
*T. B. Macaulay's Speech on the Reform Bill (1832)
-Wasson, 130-139.

Week VII: The “Liberal” Empire

03/05 The British in India (I)
03/07 The British in India (II)

Read (for next week’s discussion):
*Edmund Burke, Speech in Commons on India (1783)
*William Bentinck on Ritual Murder in India (1829)
*Thomas Babington Macaulay, Minute on Indian Education (1835)

Week VIII Free Trade Empire

03/12 MIDTERM
Note: sections on Wednesday, 03/06 and Monday, 03/11 will be devoted to midterm review).
03/14 The Triumph Free Trade

Read:
Week IX  The Victorians

03/19  Imperial Nation
03/21  Science, Religion, and Sex

Read:
*Elisa Greathed on the opening of the Indian Mutiny (1857)
*John A. Hobson, Imperialism (1902).
*Rudyard Kipling, White Man's Burden (1899)
*George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (1936)
-Wasson, 199-203 (end of page), 225-228,

***Spring Break***

Week X  “And Then History Came to a.”

04/02  The Strange Death of Liberal England
04/04  The Great War

Read:
*Blease on New Liberalism (1913)
*L. T. Hobhouse, Liberalism (1911)
*Emmeline Pankhurst on Militant Suffragists (1913)
*Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1918)
-Wasson, 189-196, 208-221, 241-253

Week XI  The Long Weekend

04/09  Women and Men
04/11  Depression and Unemployment

Read:
George Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier (entire)
*Marie Stopes, Married Love (1918) (Author’s Introduction only)
-Wasson, 253-264
Week XII  The People’s War

04/16  Film: Love on the Dole (1941)
04/18  The Second World War

Read:
*Churchill's speech, "We shall fight on beaches" (1940)
*Churchill's "Blood, sweat, and tears" (1940)
*Mass Observation, People in Production (1942)
*Memories of the Blitz.
-Wasson, 267-281

Week XIII  The People’s Peace

04/23  The Quest of Consensus
04/25  Consumerism and Permissiveness

Read:
*Contemporary reflections on the coronation.
*The Beveridge Report (1942) (first two sections only)
*Gay Liberation Front, Manifesto (1971)
*Philip Larkin, "Annus Mirabilis"
-Wasson, 281-295.

-5 pp. paper due 04/25-

Week XIV  After Empire

04/30  Immigration and Race
05/02  Decolonization and “Declinism”

Read:
Samuel Selvon, The Lonely Londoners (entire).
*Enoch Powell, Rivers of Blood Speech (1968)

Week XV  Discontent

05/07  Thatcher’s Britain
05/09  Plus ça change...

Read:
-Wasson, 305-323.