History 124: Britain since 1688
Spring 2014
Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00-5:15
1121 Mosse Humanities Building

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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 self, 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 (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. 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. You are required to **print** the sources and bring the hard copy to discussion section.

**Important:** The readings for each week will be discussed in section during the following week. For instance, readings for Week I will be discussed 01/27 and 01/29.

**Assignments and Grading:**
3-4-pp. paper: 10% (due 02/18)
Midterm: 20% (03/13, in class)
5-pp. paper: 25% (due 05/01)
Final: 30% (05/16, 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!*
Week I
01/21 Why Britain?

01/23 Restoration Britain

Read:
* Gregory King's "Social Table" for 1688 (1696).
  - Wasson, 15-36

Week II
01/28 Guest Lecture

01/30 The Glorious Revolution

Read:
* John Locke, Second Treatise on Government (1690) (chapters II and VII)
  - On the Glorious Revolution, read the relevant parts online from Wasson, Chapter 0.

Week III
02/04 War, Finance, and Trade

Read:
* Bernard Mandeville, "The Grumbling Hive" (1705) (entire)
* Addison’s Allegory of Luxury and Avarice, Spectator (1711), from Mackie, 1998
  - Wasson, 9-14, 39-47.

02/06 An Enlightened Public Sphere?

Read:
* The First English Coffee Houses (1670s)
**Week IV**

02/11  *Commerce and Politeness*

02/13  *The American and French Revolutions – in Britain*

Read:
*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)*
-Wasson, chapter 3.

**Week V**

02/18  *The Abolition of Slavery*

Read:
*Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative (entire).*

**1st paper due in class 02/18**

02/20  *The Industrial Revolution*

Read:
*P. Gaskell, The Manufacturing Population of England (1833)*
-Wasson, 94-105.

**Week VI**

02/25  *The Politics of Class*

Read:
*Samuel Bamford, Passages in the Life of a Radical (1893 [1840])*
*Samuel Smiles, Self Help (1882)*
-Wasson, 94-108.

02/27  *Political Economy and the Poverty Question*

Read:
*Adam Smith, “Digression Concerning the Corn Trade and Corn Laws,” from his Wealth of Nations (1776), vol. 2 book v.*
Week VII
03/04 Liberalism and Reform

Read:
*T. B. Macaulay's Speech on the Reform Bill (1832)
-Wasson, 130-138,

03/06 "Liberal" Imperialism

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

Note: Readings for Week VII will be discussed on 03/24 and 03/26; discussion sections on 03/10 and 03/12 will be devoted to midterm review

Week VIII
03/11 The Triumph of Free Trade

Read:

03/13 MIDTERM

**SPRING BREAK**

Week IX
03/25 Imperial Nation

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)
03/27  
*The Strange Death of Liberal England*

Read:
* Blease on New Liberalism (1913)
  * Emmeline Pankhurst on Militant Suffragists (1913)
  - Wasson, 189-196, 199-203 (end of page), 208-221, 225-228,

**Week X**
04/01  
*The Great War*

Read:
* Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1918)
  * Letter from the front describing the experience in the trenches (from Susan Grayzel, *The First World War: A Brief History with Documents* (Boston, 2013).
  * Letter from a British officer, describing the Battle of the Somme, from Grayzel, 2013.

04/03  
*Reconstruction*

Read:
* Marie Stopes, Married Love (1918) (Author’s Introduction only)*

**Week XI**
04/08  
*Depression and Unemployment*

Read:
George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (entire)

Watch:
*Love on the Dole* (d. John Baxter, 1941); streaming available through Learn@UW.

04/10  
*The People’s War*

Read:
* - Wasson, 267-281.
Week XII
04/15  The Quest for Consensus

Read:
*The Beveridge Report (1940) (first two sections only)
*Contemporary reflections on the coronation.
**"Let Us Face the Future," Labour Party's Manifesto (1945)

04/17  Consumerism, Youth, and Permissiveness

Read:
*Gay Liberation Front, Manifesto (1971)
*Philip Larkin, "Annus Mirabilis"
-Wasson, 281-295.

Week XIII
04/22  Decolonization

Read:
*Statute of Westminster (1931)
*Testimonies from the Mau Mau Uprising
-Wasson, 295-301.

04/24  Troubles

Read:
*Proclamation of the Irish Republic (1916)

Writing Workshop: sections will be devoted to writing skills and peer review of rough drafts.

Week XIV
04/29  Immigration and Race

Read:
*Samuel Selvon, The Lonely Londoners (entire).
*Enoch Powell, Rivers of Blood Speech (1968)
-Wasson, 295-315

05/01  Thatcher’s Britain

-5 pp. paper due 05/01-
Week XV
05/06 Neo-Liberalism and Globalization
    Read:
    -Wasson, 320-333.

05/08 Final Review

    -Final exam: 05/16 2:45 pm-4:45 pm-