The seminar introduces students to some of the principal topics in the historiography of modern imperial Britain. Using both older and more recent work, we will look at the types of questions that have animated research in the field and the various approaches that historians have used to answer them. Readings are organized both chronologically and thematically, and cover topics such as (but not limited to) state and government, political economy, imperial expansion and rule, gender and sexuality, the emergence of the modern self, class and its politics, liberalism, and welfarism. The seminar is based on reading and discussion. Course requirements include: analytical presentations and the introduction of questions for discussion (as needed depending on enrollment; at least once per student), two short historiographic papers, 5 pp. each, based on material discussed in class (October 25 and November 22; the papers could be based on your oral presentations, or on any other week’s readings), and one longer essay (10-12pp.) due Thursday, December 15, 4:00 pm. In addition, there will be an online discussion board, to which each student will contribute a short paragraph or question.

Books:
Catherine Hall, Civilizing Subjects (Chicago, 2002).
Chris Otter, The Victorian Eye (Chicago, 2008).
Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation (New York, 1944))
James Vernon, Politics and the People (Cambridge, 1993)
Wendy Webster, Englishness and Empire (Oxford, 2005).

**All books except Plumb are available at the bookstore. All other books will be placed on reserve at the College Library (we can also discuss alternative solutions).
1. September 6 Introduction

2. September 13 The Birth of the Modern?

3. September 20 Eighteenth-Century Politics

4. September 27 State and Nation
-Kathleen Wilson, The Sense of the People (Cambridge, 1998), 137-205.

5. October 4 Manufacture and Market Economies
-Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation (New York, 1944), 1-135

6. October 11 Commerce and the Ethics of the Self
-Albert Hirschman, The Passions and the Interests, 3-66.
7. October 18  Class and its politics
Patrick Joyce, *Democratic Subjects*, introduction.

8. October 25  Liberalism: Political Forms
*James Vernon, *Politics and the People* (Cambridge, 1993), Intro, chaps 1-5, 8, and conclusion.

*Chris Otter, *The Victorian Eye* (Chicago, 2008), 1-172, 253-263.

10. November 8  Imperial and Metropolitan Cultures
*Catherine Hall, *Civilizing Subjects* (Chicago, 2002).

11. November 15  Urban Modernities

12. November 22  War and British Society
13. November 29  Gender and Interwar Political Culture

14. December 6  State and Society in the 20th century
-Steven Fielding, Peter Thompson, and Nick Tiratsoo, England Arise! (Manchester, 1995), introduction and chapter 3.

15. December 13  Race and Nation in Post-Imperial Britain
*Wendy Webster, Englishness and Empire.