

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Semester II Year 1982-83

Course No.

124

Course Title

British History: 1688 to the Present

Instructor

Worzala

Course Description

This course covers British history from the Glorious Revolution of the late seventeenth century to the crisis over the Falklands in 1982. During this span of almost 300 years, Britain changed from a thinly settled, primarily rural, and economically underdeveloped country into a densely populated, highly urbanized, and thoroughly industrialized nation, distinguished by its relative political stability. Beginning with a survey of seventeenth-century political conflicts, the course traces Britain's fortunes through the first Industrial Revolution, the Victorian years of reform and stability, and the Edwardian beginnings of the welfare state to the difficult twentieth-century period, when Britain's power and prestige began to decline. While surveying the usual political, economic, and imperial developments, this course will also investigate some less traditional topics, such as working-class culture, rural life, the rise of feminism, and the changing life style of the 1960s as exemplified by the music of the Beatles.

Written Work

3 credits: two mid-term exams; a final.

4 credits: two mid-term exams; a final; a ten-page paper.

Grades

3 credits: mid-term exams, 25% each; final, 40%; discussion, 10%.

4 credits: mid-term exams, 20% each; final, 40%; discussion, 10%; paper, 10%.

Readings

Webb, Modern England: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present

Dickens, Hard Times

Smollett, Humphrey Clinker

Hughes, Tom Brown's School Days

Davies, Life As We Have Known It

Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier

Drabble, The Ice Age

Required Readings

R. K. Webb, Modern England: From the 18th Century to the Present (Dodd, Mead & Co.)

J. H. Plumb, The Growth of Political Stability in England, 1675-1725 (Penguin Books)

Douglas Hay, et. al., Albion's Fatal Tree (Pantheon Books, Random House)

Harold Perkin, The Origins of Modern English Society, 1780-1880 (University of Toronto Press)

Bernard Porter, The Lion's Share (Longman)

George Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich)