

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester II Year 1978-79

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
124	British History: 1688 to the Present	Mr. Donnelly

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 124 is the second half of a two-semester sequence surveying the history of England and the British empire. The course extends from the "Bloodless Revolution" of 1688 to the "Welfare State" of the late 1960s, though concluding lectures will deal with such current issues as the Ulster crisis and entry into the Common Market.

History 124 is concerned with the transformation of England from a thinly settled, mainly rural, economically underdeveloped, and politically unstable nation in the late 17th century into a thickly peopled and heavily urbanized country renowned for political stability in the 19th and 20th centuries. One major objective of the course will be to illuminate the process by which England achieved stable constitutional monarchy, based on a powerful elite of landed and monied families, and the ways in which this form of government peacefully evolved into a parliamentary democracy controlled by the masses. A second goal will be to explain how England harnessed its modest economic resources in such a way as to give birth to the epoch-making Industrial Revolution, and how the new industrial society moved from private enterprise and laissez-faire to socialism and the welfare state. A third objective will be to draw meaning from Britain's great extension and exploitation of empire in the 18th and 19th centuries as well as from the collapse of the imperial edifice in the 20th.

LECTURES

Lectures three days per week (MWF, 11:00-11:50 a.m.), supplemented by weekly discussion meetings and/or audio-visual presentations, including films, sound filmstrips, slides, and music.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Besides a final exam, there will be either one or two hour exams, depending upon the decision of the students during the first week of class. Those students who take the course for 4 credits will be asked to do a short essay (2,500 words) on some controverted issue relating to the subject matter of the course.

GRADING SYSTEM

If the students decide to have only one hour exam plus the final, the grade for the course will be determined on the following basis: active interest and regular participation in discussion, 15 percent; hour exam, 35 percent; final exam, 50 percent. If on the other hand, the students decide to have two hour exams plus the final, a number of grading options will be offered, allowing students to determine, within broad limits, how they REQUIRED READINGS wish their grade for the course to be determined.

The readings required for the course should as far as possible be completed in accordance with the schedule set out on a following page, as the weekly discussion topics will generally be arranged around the previous week's assigned reading.

Required Readings:

Hay, Douglas, et al., Albion's Fatal Tree: Crime and Society in Eighteenth-Century England (Pantheon Books)

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

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

Porter, Bernard, The Lion's Share: A Short History of British Imperialism, 1850-1970 (Longman)

Trevelyan, G. M., The English Revolution, 1688-1689 (Oxford)

Webb, R. K., Modern England from the Eighteenth Century to the Present (Dodd, Mead & Co.)

General Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1/22-1/26	1. Crown and Parliament under the Later Stuarts, 1660-88.
1/29-2/2	2. The Bloodless Revolution: Defended and Confirmed, 1688-1714.
2/5-2/9	3. Early Eighteenth-Century England, 1714-42.
2/12-2/16	4. Scotland, Ireland, and the Empire.
2/19-2/23	5. The New Religion and the New Politics, 1770-89.
2/26-3/2	6. The Economic Revolution, 1780-1840.
3/5-3/9	7. Britain and the French Revolution, 1789-1815.
3/12-3/16	8. The Growth of Liberalism and the Triumph of Reform, 1815-47.
3/26-3/30	9. Social Discord and Liberal Consensus, 1830-67.
4/2-4/6	10. The Claims of Democracy and Nationality, 1867-1900.
4/9-4/13	11. Imperialism, 1870-1914.
4/16-4/20	12. Social Reform, 1870-1914.
4/23-4/27	13. Britain and World War I.
4/30-5/4	14. The Interwar Years, 1918-39.
5/7-5/11	15. Great Challenges: War, Socialism, and Prosperity, 1940-67.
5/14-5/18	16. Britain Today and Tomorrow.