

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester II, 1993 - 1994

History 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 1980s.

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 of the 20th.

LECTURES

Lectures two days per week (TR, 2:30-3:45 p.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 an 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 wish their grade for the course to be determined.

REQUIRED READINGS

Briggs, Asa, Victorian People (Chicago U.P.).

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

Hobsbawm, E. J., Industry and Empire. Pelican Economic History of England, Vol. 3 (Penguin Books).

Porter, Bernard, The Lion's Share (Longman).

Prall, Stuart E., The Bloodless Revolution: England, 1688 (University of Wisconsin Press).

Webb, R. K., Modern England, 2nd ed. (Harper and Row).

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GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE

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<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1/18-1/21	Crown and Parliament under the Later Stuarts, 1660-88	Prall, 3-165
1/24-1/28	The Bloodless Revolution: Defended and Confirmed, 1688-1714	Prall, 166-293
1/31-2/4	Early Eighteenth-Century England, 1714-42	Webb, 1-30, 40-61; Hay <u>et al.</u> , 17-117
2/7-2/11	Scotland, Ireland and the Empire	Webb, 61-71, 79-86; Hay <u>et al.</u> , 167-308
2/14-2/18	The New Religion and the New Politics, 1770-89	Webb, 30-39, 86-104, 122-31
2/21-2/25	The Economic Revolution, 1780-1840	Webb, 107-22; Hobsbawm, 23-108
2/28-3/4	Britain and the French Revolution, 1789-1815	Webb, 134-55
3/14-3/18	The Growth of Liberalism and the Triumph of Reform, 1815-47	Webb, 157-236; Briggs, 1-139
3/21-3/25	Social Discord and Liberal Consensus, 1830-67	Webb, 236-82, 301-16 Briggs, 140-299; Hobsbawm, chaps. 6-7
3/28-4/1	The Claims of Democracy and Nationality, 1867-1900	Webb, 339-52, 365-412, 433-37; Porter, 1-151
4/4-4/8	Imperialism, 1870-1914	Webb, 352-65, 437-54; Porter, 152-232
4/11-4/15	Social Reform, 1870-1914	Webb, 454-66, 469-81; Hobsbawm, chaps. 8-10
4/18-4/22	Britain and World War I	Webb, 481-509; Porter, 233-58
4.25-4/29	The Interwar Years, 1918-39	Webb, 509-41; Porter, 259-302; Hobsbawm, 207-48
5.2-5/6	Great Challenges: War, Socialism, and Prosperity, 1940-67	Webb, 541-49, 565-626; Porter, 303-54; Hobsbawm, 249-93, 313-21