

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester II, 1973-74

History 364

Modern Britain, 1870-1960

Mr. Carr

Conspectus of Lectures

I. BRITAIN IN 1870

Week I

January 14 British History in the Modern Age: An Overview
January 16 The Social and Economic Structure: Deference,
Unity, Prosperity

Week II

January 21 The Political Framework: A Halfway House
January 23 The Burdens of the Modern Age: Ireland and Education
January 24 Discussion Sessions
Topic: Matthew Arnold: A Victorian Critic of
Democracy

II. BRITAIN, 1870-1900: REFORM, DEPRESSION, EMPIRE

Week III

January 28 Gladstonian Liberalism: A New Departure?
January 30 The Climax of Nineteenth Century Liberalism

Week IV

February 4 Disraelian Conservatism in Action
February 6 The Economy: Dilemmas and Paradoxes
February 7 Discussion Sessions
Topic: The Politics and Mentality of Late Victorian
Britain

Week V

February 11 The Denouement of Gladstonian Liberalism
February 13 The New Politics
February 15 FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

Week VI

February 18 Toryism in Transition
February 20 Dominion over Palm and Pine
February 21 Discussion Sessions
Topic: Why Imperialism?

III. THE EDWARDIAN INTERLUDE

Week VII

February 25 Stirrings on the Left
February 27 Liberalism Resuscitated
March 1 Film: "How Green Was My Valley."

Week VIII

March 4 A Liberal State in Crisis and War
 March 6 The Unexpected Revolution: The Women's Movement.
 GUEST LECTURER: Mrs. Diane Worzala
 March 7 Discussion Sessions
 Topic: Why Did the Liberal Party Collapse?

IV. BRITAIN BETWEEN THE WARSWeek IX

March 11 The Politics of the New Day
 March 13 The General Strike and Its Aftermath

Week X

March 18 The Great Depression
 March 20 Distributism: An English Variant of Populism
 GUEST LECTURER: Mr. J. M. Thorn
 March 21 Discussion Sessions
 Topic: British Culture between the Wars and After

Week XI

March 25 A State of Funk
 March 27 The Causes of World War II
 GUEST LECTURER: Mr. Kirk Willis

Week XII

April 1 Britain at War
 April 3 The Welfare State Comes of Age: The National Health
 April 5 The Nationalized Industries

Week XIII

April 8 SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE
 April 10 Film: "Winston Churchill"
 April 12 - 21 Spring Vacation

Week XIV

April 22 Toryism through Crisis and Transition
 April 24 Tellies, Teddies, and Semi-detacheds.
 April 25 Discussion Sessions
 Topic: Britain in the 1950's & 60's: The Culmination
 of a Historical Tradition

Week XV

April 29 The Travails of the Labour Government
 May 1 The Burdens of the 1970's: The Economy, the
 trade unions, and the Irish
 May 3 Britain in 1974: The Meeting of Past and Future

READING

The reading listed under Option I is basic reading and constitutes the minimum required reading for undergraduates. Any student is welcome to do as much additional reading in the books listed under Option II as he cares to do. Graduate Students are required, in addition, to read at least four of the books listed under Option II, spaced evenly throughout the course. This is the minimum reading required of students in the course.

All students are asked to do the reading under Option I for discussion sessions, so that there will be a common basis for discussion. But except for these works, a student may do any or all of his reading from Option II that he desires. According to their needs, students should feel perfectly free to do the reading under Option I for one week or under Option II for another.

ALL STUDENTS ARE URGED TO KEEP UP WITH THE READING WEEK BY WEEK

Week IOPTION I:

R. K. Webb, Modern England, Chapter 8 and Appendices 2, 3, and 4.
Matthew Arnold, Culture and Anarchy, pp. 1-97.

OPTION II:

W. G. Hoskins, The Making of the English Landscape, chapters 7-10.
David Spring, The Administration of the Landed Estate in the Nineteenth Century.
Asa Briggs, Victorian Cities.
E. P. Thompson on Mayhew in Victorian Studies, XI (1967), 41-62.
John Pimlott, The Englishman's Holiday.
M. Hewitt, Wives and Mothers in Victorian Industry.
H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, English Architecture Since the Regency: An Interpretation (In the Art Library).
J. H. Clapham, An Economic History of Modern Britain, Vol. II, Chap. 3, 6, 12.
William Ashworth, An Economic History of England, 1870-1939, chap. 1, 2, 3.

Week II: Discussion Sessions

Matthew Arnold, Culture and Anarchy, pp. 98-212. Discussion to be on entire work.

Additional Optional Reading:

T. Carlyle, Shooting Niagara
Noel Annan, Leslie Stephen
H. Taine, Notes on England
Henry James, English Hours

Any of John Ruskin's later works, especially the following:

Unto This Last
The Ethics of the Dust
The Crown of Wild Olives
Time and Tide, by Weare and Tyne

G. B. Shaw, Ruskin's Politics
J. S. Mill, The Subjection of Women, introduction by W. R. Carr.

Week IIIOption I:

Samuel H. Beer, British Politics in the Age of Collectivism, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2.

Option II. One of the following:

P. Magnus, Gladstone, Chapters 9, 10, 11.

P. Knaplund, Gladstone's Foreign Policy, as much as you care to read, and especially chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5.

R. T. Shannon, Gladstone and the Bulgarian Agitation, preferably entire but especially chapters 1, 5, 6, and 8.

Kenneth O. Morgan, Wales in British Politics, 1868-1922.

Robert Kelley, The Transatlantic Persuasion, chapters on the Background of Liberalism and on Gladstone, and if possible the rest of the book as well.

Brian Harrison, Drink and the Victorians

Week IV: Discussion SessionsOption I:

For undergraduates, the discussion will focus on S. Beer, Chapter 3, plus the sections assigned for Week III, and on Tennyson, Locksley Hall and Locksley Hall Fifty Years After.

Graduate Students are asked, in addition to reading the above works, to explore further into late Victorian Politics and mentality. Please begin this exploration by reading enough in Kelley, The Transatlantic Persuasion, to familiarize yourself with his definition of liberalism, his basic interpretation of Gladstone, and his method of writing comparative history. Then, in the time available, continue your study by reading any of the works assigned under Option II for Weeks III and IV. The last half of G. M. Young, Victorian England, is especially recommended.

Option II: At Least One of the Following:

E. J. Feuchtwanger, Disraeli, Democracy, and the Tory Party

R. B. McDowell, British Conservatism, 1832-1914, especially chapters 3 & 4.

Royden J. Harrison, Before the Socialists

Paul Smith, ed. Lord Salisbury on Politics

Robert Blake, The Conservative Party from Peel to Churchill, chap. 4 & 5.

G. M. Young, Victorian England: Portrait of An Age

Week V:

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE -- NO READING.

Week VI: Discussion Session:Option I:

Discussion sessions for both graduates and undergraduates will focus on Robin Winks, British Imperialism. Students who are using Webb

are also asked to read chapter 10, part I, "The Tory Hegemony."

Option II:

Any book or reasonable number of articles listed in Wink's bibliography; or additional reading in books listed for Week IV, option II.

Week VII:

Option I:

Webb, chapter 10, section II, "The Liberal Resurgence."
Henry Pelling, A Short History of the Labour Party, chapters 1-5.

Option II: At Least One of the Following:

Bernard Semmel, Imperialism and Social Reform
Beatrice Webb, My Apprenticeship
H. Pelling, Origins of the Labour Party
G. B. Shaw, ed. Fabian Essays
Roy Jenkins, Mr. Balfour's Poodle
E. H. Phelps Brown, Growth of British Industrial Relations, 1905-1914.

Week VIII: Discussion Sessions

Option I:

Discussion Sessions for both undergraduates and graduates will focus on Joe A. Thompson, The Collapse of the British Liberal Party

Option II:

Any book or reasonable number of articles listed in Thompson's bibliography.

Week IX

Option I:

Webb, chapter 12, sections 1, 2, and 3.
Robert Graves, The Long Weekend (selections to be announced in class).

Option II:

Maurice Cowling, The Impact of Labour 1920-24, The Beginning of Modern British Politics.
D. E. Butler, The Electoral System in Great Britain since 1918
A. J. Youngson, The British Economy, 1920-1957
J. M. Keynes, The Economic Consequences of the Peace
Brian Simon, Education and the Labour Movement, 1870-1920

Week X: Discussion SessionsOption I:

Discussion sessions for both undergraduates and graduates will focus on Richard Hoggart, The Use of Literacy and on Graves and Hodges, The Long Weekend.

Option II: At least one of the following:

K. Hutchinson, The Decline and Fall of the British Capitalism

R. Skidelsky, Politicians and the Slump: the Labour Government of 1929-31

Marian Bowley, Housing and the State, 1919-1945

J. M. Keynes, Essays in Persuasion

Any book listed under Week IX, option II not yet read that covers this period.

Week XI:Option I:

Webb, chapter 12, sections 4 and 5.

D. Thomson, England in the Twentieth Century (Use especially as a review).

Option II:

Mark Abrams, The Condition of the British People, 1911-1945

F. S. Northedge, The Troubled Giant: Britain Among the Great Powers, 1916-1939

Michael Foot, Aneurin Bevan

R. W. Lyman, "The Conflict Between Socialist Ideals and Practical Politics between the Wars," Journal of British Studies, V, 1965.

Harold Nicolson, Volume I of his diaries.

Week XII:Option I:

Webb, Chapter 13

Beer, British Politics (Selections to be announced in class)

Option II:

W. E. Robson, Problems of Nationalized Industry

C. R. Atlee, The Labour Party in Perspective

R. McKenzie, British Political Parties

George Orwell, Animal Farm or 1984

D. C. March, The Social Structure of England, 1871-1951

Week XIII:

SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE -- NO READING

Week XIV: Discussion Sessions:Option I:

The Discussion sessions for both undergraduates and graduates will focus on John Osborne, Look Back in Anger and on selections from Anthony Sompon's The Anatomy of Britain Today which will be announced in class.

Option II:

R. H. S. Crossman, New Fabian Essays
F. S. Northedge, British Foreign Policy: The Process of Readjustment, 1945-1961
C. Driver, The Disarmers
F. Parkin, Middle-Class Radicalism
Martin Harrison, Trade Unions and the Labour Party since 1945
V. L. Allen, Trade Unions and the Government
Any of the Nuffield Studies of General Elections in the Post World War II period.

Week XV: Review: No assigned Option I readingOption II: At least one of the following:

R. A. Butler, Memoirs
Harold Wilson, The Labour Government, 1964-1970
George Brown, In My Way

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

Meetings

(N.B.: STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS OF THE COURSE EXCEPT WHEN PREVENTED BY ILLNESS)

There will be two lectures a week and, ordinarily, one two hour discussion session every two weeks. Several films have also been scheduled. They will ordinarily be shown at the third lecture hour.

On Weeks when no discussions or films are scheduled, students are urged to use the third lecture hour to do one or more of the following things:

1. To write short (2-4 page) essays on the reading or one of the lecture topics for the week. The instructor will read and correct these essays, but not grade them. This activity is particularly intended for those students who would like to improve their writing--an accomplishment which can be achieved in no other way than by consistent practice.
2. To do extra reading on topics related to the course, either chosen from the optional list or on topics of the student's choice selected in consultation with the instructor.

3. To gain a knowledge of the visual impact of Britain. The following sources are recommended:
 - N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England (A volume on each county)
 - A Visual History of Modern Britain
 - The Illustrated London News (excellent)

4. To become acquainted with the important British newspapers and periodicals of social and political comment which are published today. Suggested sources:
 - The Times
 - The Observer
 - The Daily Express
 - The Guardian
 - The Spectator
 - The Economist
 - The New Statesman
 - New Society
 - Times Literary Supplement
 - The Sunday Times

Discussion Sessions

Discussion sessions will usually, though not invariably, be held every two weeks and will be led by the instructor. They will focus on the readings assigned, but opportunity will also be provided for questions and for general discussion of problems raised in the course. The purposes of the discussion sessions are to examine controversial issues in British history from 1870 to the present; to acquaint students with the various materials and techniques by which historians have investigated British history; and to provide training in the formulation of historical problems and in the drawing of inferences from historical evidence. The readings have been selected with these aims in view.

AS INDICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE INSTRUCTOR WILL CONDUCT THEM, THE DISCUSSION SESSIONS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COURSE. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THEM WITHOUT FAIL AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE READINGS ASSIGNED AND FOR ANY MATERIAL PRESENTED DURING THE SESSION.

The quality (not the quantity) of students' participation in discussion will account for approximately 10% of the final course grade. By quality is meant the following: (1) Command of the reading; (2) general interest and curiosity; and (3) improvement through the semester in ability to analyze material and to use it creatively, with emphasis not on an absolute standard, but on progress.

Obviously, these three criteria presuppose attendance. To make sure they understand the material, students who must unavoidably miss a session are encouraged to turn in a six to eight page interpretive essay on the assigned reading, which the instructor will comment on and if necessary, discuss in person.

WRITTEN WORK

There will be a final examination and either one or two other pieces of written work. Every student is required to take the final examination. For the other two pieces of written work, students may choose from among the following options: hour examinations, analytical essays, book reviews, short "research" papers involving reading in one or two additional sources, or, in lieu of two pieces of written work, one longer term paper involving a more substantial amount of research in secondary sources and if necessary in primary sources as well. Details will be discussed in class.

THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF WRITTEN WORK REQUIRED IS TWO HOUR EXAMINATIONS AND A FINAL EXAMINATION. ALL THREE PIECES OF WRITTEN WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR A PASSING GRADE IN THE COURSE.

THE FIRST PIECE OF WRITTEN WORK WILL BE DUE ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15. THE SECOND WILL BE DUE ON MONDAY, APRIL 8. LONGER PAPERS WILL ALSO BE DUE ON THIS DATE.

Any student who wishes to request an extension must see the instructor AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE RESPECTIVE PAPER IS DUE. After that date, extensions will be granted only in cases of illness or really dire and unexpected emergencies. It is hoped that this arrangement will encourage students to plan their work so that their productions will represent leisurely reflection, not the frantic non-inspiration afforded by the last twelve hours before the deadline.

It is expected that the papers will be written in clear, coherent, and hopefully elegant prose.

Students are strongly urged to complete their written work by the stated deadlines, so that they can avoid the end of the semester crunch and even more important, so that they can apply the criticisms received on one piece of work to the production of the next.

GRADING:

The three pieces of written work (or the two, for those who choose to write the longer paper) will be counted equally, with additional weight given to the final examination if it shows an improvement over previous grades. Approximately 80% of the grade will be based on the written work; approximately 20% of the grade will be based on the student's participation in discussion. Participation in discussion will be considered particularly in those cases in which the written work is on the border line between a higher and a lower grade.

ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR A PASSING GRADE IN THE COURSE. ALL STUDENTS WHO WISH TO WRITE ONE LONGER PAPER INSTEAD OF THE TWO SHORTER ASSIGNMENTS MUST CONSULT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR EARLY IN THE TERM. THE LONGER PAPER MUST BE A SUBSTANTIAL PIECE OF WORK OF THE SCOPE DECIDED ON IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR.