

History 374, Fall 2006  
Instructor: Kaarin Michaelsen

TuTh, 11-12:15 p.m.  
204 Studio Arts Center

### ***“British History, 1688-2006”***

This upper-division lecture course surveys British history from the late 17th century until the present day. Using intellectual treatises, novels, short stories, music, plays, and other primary sources, students will examine the major landmarks in the social, political, intellectual, and cultural history of the diverse peoples of the British Isles -- including the "Glorious" Revolution of 1688, the rise of "Victorianism" and its critics, the construction and decline of global empires, world wars, the "Swingin' Sixties," punk rock, the Thatcher Revolution, and the emergence of Tony Blair and "Cool Britannia" in the late 20th century.

#### Required Readings

The following books are required for this course and are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore in Elliot University Center and at Addams Bookstore on Tate Street. Copies of the books will also be placed on reserve in Jackson Library.

Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today: 1830 to the Present, 8th Edition*.  
Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (Penguin).  
Dickens, *Hard Times* (Bantam Classics).  
Shaw, *Major Barbara* (Penguin).

Other short readings for this course will be available via electronic reserve through Jackson Library.

#### Grading

Grades for this course will be assigned according to the following scheme:

20% -- Midterm 1  
20% -- Midterm 2  
15% -- Paper  
35% -- Final  
10% -- Participation (includes attendance, **talking** during class discussions, and written responses to readings)

#### Exams

There will be two midterm exams in this course. **Midterm 1** will be held on **Tuesday, September 19th**. **Midterm 2** will be held on **Thursday, October 26th**. Each exam will consist of identifications (based upon the Key Word terms listed on each lecture outline and posted on the web site) and an essay portion. The **Final Exam** will be held on **Tuesday, December 12th**, from **12:00 -3:00 p.m.** in 204 Studio Arts Center (STAC). The exam will consist of a Key Word

ID section, a passage ID section (drawn from the assigned documents for this course), and an essay portion. Make-up exams will only be given in extreme circumstances (e.g. serious illness, bereavement), and a note must accompany requests. No "Incomplete" grades will be given.

### Paper

There will be one major written assignment in this course, an essay of no less than ten (10) pages on a topic to be assigned in advance. A choice of topics will be provided approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the due date, and students will be expected to draw upon the readings for the course in producing their essay. The paper will be due on **Wednesday, November 22nd at noon**. Papers will be submitted electronically; details will be forthcoming.

### Plagiarism Policy

UNCG takes the Academic Integrity Policy extremely seriously, as do I. Any work submitted that is found to contain plagiarized material will immediately receive a failing grade, and disciplinary action will be taken forthwith in accordance with the University's policies.

### Syllabus

August 15: Introduction: From "This Sceptered Isle" to "Cool Britannia"

#### **SECTION 1: POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE IN THE LONG 18TH CENTURY**

August 17: 1688: A Glorious, Bloodless (!) Revolution and a New Political World

August 22: Whigs and Tories: Politics and Political Culture in the Age of Party, 1715-1760

August 24: Cultivating "Taste": Society and Religion in 18th Century Britain

August 29: **Discussion: *Sense and Sensibility***

**Reading:** Xeroxed chapters from Willcox and Arnstein  
*Sense and Sensibility*

#### **SECTION 2: THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS**

August 31: "Rule Britannia": Forging the First *British* Empire

September 5: Radicalism at Home, Rebellion Abroad: Or, The American Revolution

September 7: **Discussion: American Revolution Documents**

**Reading:** Xeroxed chapters from Willcox and Arnstein  
Cartwright, "The Need for Radical Reform" (1776) E-Reserve  
Burke, "Conciliation with America" (1775) (ER)  
Tucker, "The True Interests of Great Britain Set Forth in Regard to the Colonies" (1774) (ER)

George III, "Speech from the Throne" (1775) (ER)  
Anonymous, "A Criticism of the Declaration of Independence" (1776) (ER)

September 12: Quelle Excitement! Quelle Horreur!: The French Revolution in Britain  
September 14: **Discussion: French Revolution Documents**

**Reading:** Xeroxed chapter from Willcox and Arnstein  
Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France" (1790) (ER)  
Paine, "The Rights of Man" (1791) (ER)  
More, "Village Politics" (1793) (ER)

September 19: **Midterm Exam 1**

### **SECTION 3: BUILDING THE VICTORIAN LIBERAL STATE**

September 21: Life in the First Industrial Society

September 26: The 19th Century Liberal State: Its Subjects, "Triumphs," and Limitations  
September 28: **Discussion: *Hard Times***

**Reading:** Arnstein, pp. 7-18, 24-30, and Chapters 3 and 8  
*Hard Times*  
Ure, "The Philosophy of Manufacturers" (1834) (ER)

### **SECTION 4: BRITISH CIVILIZATION AT HOME AND ABROAD**

October 3: Victorian Society and Its Critics  
October 5: "The Sun Never Sets....": Building the Second British Empire

October 10: Fall Break Holiday! No Class!  
October 12: **Discussion: Imperialism Documents**

**Reading:** Arnstein, Chapters 5, 10, and 11 (pp. 191-199)  
Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (1936) (ER)  
Naoroji, "The Benefits of British Rule" (1871) (ER)  
Grieg, "Shall We Retain Our Colonies?" (1851) (ER)  
Disraeli, "The Maintenance of Empire" (1872) (ER)  
Gladstone, "England's Mission" (1878) (ER)  
Morel, "The Black Man's Burden" (1903) (ER)

### **SECTION 5: NEW VOICES, NEW CHALLENGES AT THE FIN-DE-SIECLE**

October 17: Liberal Socialism or Social Liberalism?  
October 19: The Strange Death of Liberal England

October 24: **Discussion: *Major Barbara***

October 26: **Midterm Exam 2**

**Reading:** Arnstein, Chapters 11 (pp. 199-210) and 12  
*Major Barbara*

## **SECTION 6: THE GREAT WAR AND THE BIRTH OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

October 31: "Goodbye to All That": Britain and the Great War  
November 2: **Discussion: First World War Documents**

**Reading:** Arnstein, Chapter 14  
Brittain, Selections from *Chronicle of Youth* (xerox)  
Poems by Brooke, Owen, and Kipling, 1914-1918

## **SECTION 7: THE ROAD TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

November 7: Crises and (Imperfect) Resolutions in Ireland  
November 9: Diplomacy, Appeasement, and "Their Finest Hour"?

**Reading:** Arnstein, Chapters 15, 17, and 18  
**Optional Film:** "Hope and Glory"

## **SECTION 8: POST-WAR BRITAIN, 1945-1979**

November 14: The Creation of the "New Jerusalem" and the End of Empire  
November 16: The "Permissive Society" or "Anarchy in the UK"?: Britain in the 1960s and 1970s

November 21: **Discussion: Post-War Documents**

**Reading:** Arnstein, Chapters 19, 20, and 21  
Powell, "Rivers of Blood Speech" (1968) (ER)  
Churchill, "A Protest Against Britain's 'Shameful Flight' from India" (1947) (ER)  
Rushdie, "The New Empire Within Britain" (1982) (ER)  
Levin, "Run it Down the Flagpole" (1970) (ER)

November 22: **Paper Due (Electronic Submissions) by Noon!** (Note: This is a Wednesday)  
November 23: Thanksgiving Holiday! No Class!

## **SECTION 9: BRITAIN IN A POST-MODERN WORLD**

November 28: Thatcherism, "New Labour," and "Cool Britannia"  
November 30: The Janus Dilemma: "Britain" and "Britishness" in the 21st Century  
**Discussion: Election and Multiculturalism Documents**

**Reading:** Arnstein, Chapters 22 and 23  
Thatcher, "Speech to the Conservative Party Conference" (1975) (ER)

Blair, "Speech to the Labour Party Conference" (1997) (ER)

Kureishi, "My Son the Fanatic" (ER)

**Optional Films:** "Brassed Off!" and "East is East"

**Final Exam:** **Tuesday, December 12, 12:00-3:00 p.m. in our usual room**