

History 4390

Imperial Britain Since 1688

RISE AND FALL OF IMPERIAL BRITAIN

HISTORY 4390
Spring 2011

IMPERIAL BRITAIN SINCE 1688

Spring 2011
MWF 1:30-2:20

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MAIN 201
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Office hours: MW 2:30-4:00 or by appointment

Required Texts:

William B. Willcox and Walter Arnstein, *The Age of Aristocracy* (8th edition)
Walter L. Arnstein, *Britain: Yesterday and Today* (8th edition)
Daniel DeFoe, *Moll Flanders*
E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*
Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
Kingsley Amis, *Lucky Jim*

Course Description: This course introduces students to the major events, developments and interpretations of the period in British History from the ‘Glorious Revolution’ to the present. This is the epoch of the British Empire: India, North America, Africa, and Pacific islands (and one near continent, Australia) as far as the eye can “see”—at least until, like Humpty-Dumpty, it had a great fall, coming to a crashing end within two decades, beginning in 1946. All Britons were aware of the empire, and their lives were affected by it in economic, diplomatic, military and cultural terms. Few of them had anything directly to do with it, however, The modern British Empire began, reached its rather impressive pinnacle, and came to a virtual end during the three centuries covered by this course. In this manner it provides a context within which a great deal took place on a great many planes well beyond imperial matters themselves.

The course focuses on these General Topics: *The Social and Political Order; The Imperial Order; The International Order and Britain at War;* and *The Mind and the Senses*. They include such themes as transformation from an agricultural and aristocratic to an industrial and democratic society; Britain’s place in the world; urbanization; imperial and world war; Britain, Ireland, and Scotland; and the intellectual life of Britain. These topics and themes will be explored through reading, discussion, and writing projects.

ASSIGNMENTS

Short essays:

This is a writing intensive course, which includes an essay of two or three pages in length, typed (computer printed) and double spaced, in response to **each** required novel. These essays will be due on the class days indicated below. Each student will also write a response at that time, in class, to one novel essay by another student, in the manner described below. These responses with the attached essay will be turned in to the professor at the end of the class period, and will be returned to the students at the following class meeting. Each essay must include:

1. A clear but brief description of the story line of the novel.
2. A clear indication of the main theme or themes addressed in the novel. Examples might include such themes as subordination of women; oppression of industrial workers; empty posturing of academics; rivalries between nations that could lead to war; and so forth.
3. A clear description of how the theme or themes relate to and clarify a particular aspect of British History.
4. Finally, clear, concise and **grammatically correct writing (including correct spelling)**, which is organized around the triune principle of
 - a. introduction in which you make clear what you are going to talk about and where, in general terms, you are going with it;
 - b. text, in which you elaborate points 1, 2, and 3 above;
 - c. conclusion, in which you reiterate, in summary form, how you have interpreted the novel in line with points 1, 2, and 3 above.

Student responses:

The essays will not be graded in the ordinary way. **However, any student who is not present to submit an essay and prepare a response to another essay on the day when they are due will have ten points subtracted from his/her total score for the course.**

The essays will be assessed, in class, in the following manner: the class will be divided into groups, the exact number of which will be determined by the number of students in the course. On the due date for each essay, a portion of class time will be set aside for discussion of these essays within the groups. Each student takes primary responsibility for reading and presenting to the group an evaluation of the contents of one essay, for purposes of discussion. In sum, each group will discuss the novel in question in the context of the essays they are evaluating. At the

end of this discussion, each student will prepare a written response to the essay for which he/she has taken responsibility. The response will be based upon his/her conclusions as well as the observations made during discussion by other members of the group. These responses will be written on forms provided for the purpose, attached to the essays in question. Both will be turned in at the end of the class period. Essays and responses will be returned at the beginning of the next class session.

Finally, each student will write an essay that interconnects all of the source material of the course, texts, novels and lecture notes, with the main themes of the course. This essay will be seven to ten pages long, is due in my office by the day when the final examination is scheduled. They will be graded from the perspective of both content and quality of writing.

In fact this essay *is* the **final examination**. It does not require footnotes or bibliography. There will be a mid-term examination, which will be essay in format and require students to synthesize and analyze reading, lectures, and visual materials. The mid-term is a take-home examination.

GRADING

There are 300 points for this course, based upon the mid-term and the Final Essay.

Mid-term Essay: 100

Final Essay: 200

Remember, you lose ten points from your total score if you are not present in class with your essay completed, on the day scheduled, to participate in discussion and evaluation of the essays. That can add up—or perhaps I should say down—quickly.

The Break-Down:

95-100 A

90-94 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

77-79 C+

and so on.

Reading Assignments:

Age of Arisocracy:

- Part I by January 1
- Part II and III by February 18
- Part IV by February 25

Britain: Yesterday and Today:

- Part I and II by March 18
- Part III, and IV by April 8
- Part V, VI and VII by April 27

Moll Flanders Review due on January 28

A Tale of Two Cities Review due on February 28

A Passage to India Review due on March 16

Lucky Jim Review due on April 29

Quotes of interest to the course themes:

‘The time has come,’ the Walrus said,
 ‘To talk of many things:
‘Of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—
 ‘Of cabbages—and kings—
‘And why the sea is boiling hot—
 ‘And whether pigs have wings....’

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Lewis Carroll

We have seen a great part of the nation’s money got into the hands of those who by their birth, education and merit, could pretend no higher than to wear our liveries; while others, who by their credit, quality and fortune, were only able to give reputation and success to the Revolution, were not only laid aside, as dangerous and useless; but loaded with the scandal of Jacobites, men of arbitrary principles, and pensioners to France; while Truth, who is said to lie in a well, seemed now to be buried there under a heap of stones.’

Jonathan Swift, *The Art of Political Lying*

““The fever” was (as it usually is in Manchester) of a low, putrid, typhoid kind; brought on by miserable living, filthy neighbourhood, and great depression of mind and body. It is virulent, malignant, and highly infectious. But the poor are fatalists with regard to infection; and well for them is so, for in their crowded dwellings no invalid can be isolated.’

Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, *Mary Barton*

When Sir Charles Napier was governor-General of India in the 1830s, he ordered the practice of *Suti* be repressed. Indian leaders criticized him for this, claiming he thereby violated Britain’s promise not to interfere with local custom. Sir Charles replied: ‘You say Suttee is the custom. Well, we too have a custom which is to hang men who burn women alive. You build your funeral pyre and I will build a gallows beside it, and let each of us act according to custom.’

‘An Irish labourer praises his homeland in a London pub. “You can get a whole turkey for sixpence,” he says. “But mate, why didn’t you stay in that wonderful country where you can buy a turkey for sixpence,” asks a Londoner. “And where do I get that sixpence?” asks the Irishman.

Egon Larsen, *Wit as a Weapon*

‘Things are getting back to normal. Every nation for itself and God for us all. The time for Areopagus and the like of that, is gone by.’

George Canning following the death of
Lord Gastlereagh

‘Out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety.’

Henry IV, Part I, quoted by
Neville Chamberlain when the Munich Agreement
was signed in 1938

‘I don’t know what effect these men will have upon the enemy, but by God they terrify me!’

Arthur Wellesley (later Duke of Wellington) 1809,
Regarding the Enneskilleners, a regiment of Ulstermen.

‘There’s something wrong with our bloody ships to-day, Chatsorth!’

Admiral Beatty during the Battle of Jutland in 1916

‘Never have so many owed so much to so few.’

Winston Churchill’s tribute to RAF fighter pilots after the
Battle of Britain

‘The newspapers! Sir, they are the most villainous–licentious–
abominable–infernal–Not that I ever read them–no–I make it a rule never to
look into a newspaper.’

Richard Brinsley Sheridan,
The Critics

‘To lose one parent, Mr. Worthing, may be regarded as a misfortune;
to lose both looks like carelessness.’

Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde,
The Importance of Being Ernest

‘He spoke with a certain what-is-it in his voice, and I could see that, if not
actually disgruntled, he was far from being grunted.’

P.G. Wodehouse,
The Code of the Woosters

**SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS ON MODERN BRITISH HISTORY
AVAILABLE IN MERRILL-CAZIER LIBRARY**

A History of Cambridge University

A History of Oxford University

Abbott, Mary, *Family Ties: English Families, 1540-1920*

Adams, James T., *Empire on the Seven Seas*

Aldgate, Anthony, *Britain Can Take it: The British Cinema in the Second World War*

Arnstein, Walter, *Catholic Versus Catholic in Mid-Victorian England*

Ashton, Rosemary, *Little Germany: Exile and Asylum in Victorian England*

Aster, Sidney, *1939: The making of the Second World War*

Atlas of the British Empire

August, Thomas, *The Selling of the Empire: British and French Imperialist Propaganda, 1890-1940*

Bailey, Richard, *New Light on George Fox and Early Quakers*

Balfour, Michael, *Propaganda in War, 1939-1945*

Banerji, Arun, *India and Britain, 1947-1968*

Barrow, Thomas, *Trade and Empire*

Bemis, S.F., *Jay's Treaty: A Study in Commerce and Diplomacy*

Bhattacharjee, Jayanta, *Cachar Under British Rule in North East India*

Bhoyan, Arun, *The Quit India Movement: The Second World War and Indian Nationalism*

Black Bread and Barbed Wire: Prisoners in the First World War

Blackwell, Michael, *Clinging to Grandeur: British Attitudes and Foreign Policy in the Aftermath of the Second World War*

Blair, Joan, *Return from the River Kwai*

Bonaparte, Felicia, *The Gypsy-Bachelor of Manchester: The Life of Mrs. Gaskell's Demon*

Boyce, R.W.D., *British Capitalism at the Crossroads, 1919-1932: A Study in Politics, Economics and International Relations*

Bowen, H. V., *Revenue and Reform: The Indian Problem in British Politics, 1757-1773*

Brault, Gerard, *The French-Canadian Heritage in New England*

Braybon, Gail, *Women Workers in the First World War: The British Experience*
British Foreign Policy: Tradition, Change and Transformation

Brown, Jonathan, *Agriculture in England, 19870-1947*

Brown, Stephen, *Edmund Burke and the Discourse of Virtue*

Buckley, Roger, *Occupation Diplomacy: Britain, the United States and Japan, 1945-1952*
 _____, *Slaves in Red Coats: British West Indian Regiments, 1795-1815*
 Burt, Alfred, *The Evolution of the British Empire and Commonwealth*
 Byrde, Penelope, *The Twentieth Century*
 Bywater, David, *Dryden's Revolutionary England*
 Calder, Angus, *Revolutionary Empire*
 Calder, Nigel, *The English Channel*
 Caldwell, John, *English Keyboard Music: Before the Nineteenth Century*
 _____, *The Oxford History of Music*
 Calvert, Peter, *The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1914: the Diplomacy of Anglo-American Conflict*
 Carpenter, F. G., *The British Isles and the Baltic States*
 Carsten, F. L., *War Against War: British and German Radical Movements in the First World War*
 Cell, John, *Hailey: A Study in British Imperialism*
 Challoner and His Church: *A Catholic Bishop in Georgian England*
 Chamberlain, Muriel, *Britain and India*
 Chandos, John, *Boys Together: English Public Schools, 1800-1864*
 Charmley, John, *Lord Lloyd and the Decline of the British Empire*
 Childs, Michael, *Labour's Apprentices: Working-Class Lads in Late Victorian and Edwardian England*
 Christensen, Jerome, *Lord Byron's Strength: Romantic Writing and Commercial Society*
 Christopher, A. J., *The British Empire at Its Zenith*
 Cole, Robert, *A.J.P. Taylor: The Traitor Within the Gates*
 _____, *Britain and the War of Words in Neutral Europe, 1939-1945*
 _____, *Propaganda, Censorship and Irish Neutrality in the Second World War*
 _____, and Michael Moody, eds., *The Dissenting Tradition*
 Conacher, J. B., *Britain and the Crimea, 1855-56: Problems of War and Peace*
 Conwell, Joan, *The Roman Catholic Church in England, 1780-1850*
 Cooper, Allan, *The Occupation of Namibia*
 _____, *Country Towns in Pre-Industrial England*
 Coupland, Sir Reginald, *The American Revolution and the British Empire*
 Cox, Jeffrey, *The English Church in a Secular Society*
 Covell, Charles, *The Redefinition of Conservatism: Politics and Doctrine*
 Crane, Ralph, *Inventing India: A History of India in English Language Fiction*

Craton, Michael, *Slavery, Abolition, and Emancipation: Black Slavery and the British Empire*

Cross, Colin, *The Fall of the British Empire*

Crowther, M.A., *The Workhouse System, 1834-1929*

Cruikshank, Charles, *Deception in World War Two*

Cunningham, Michael, *British Government Policy in Northern Ireland, 1966-1989*

Dalton, Hugh, *Second World War Diary*

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Davis, Lennard, *Factual Fiction, the Origins of the English Novel*

DeAlmeida, Hermione, *Romantic Medicine and John Keats*

Death in Towns: Urban Responses to the Dying and the Dead

Dent, H.C., *Education in England and Wales*

Derry, John, *Castlereagh*

Diaries of Lord Louis Mountbatten, 1920-1922

Diplomacy and Intelligence During the Second World War

Dooley, Allan, *Authors and Printers in Victorian England*

Dorothy L. Sayers: the Centenary Celebration

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Eller, Cynthia, *Conscientious Objectors and the Second World War*

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Kent, Marian, *Oil and Empire*

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Levack, Brian P., *The Formation of the British State: England, Scotland and the Union, 1603-1707*

Lewis, Jane, *Women in England, 1870-1950*

Lewisohn, Mark, *The Beatles, Recording Session*

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Livingstone, James, *Matthew Arnold and Christianity London, 1500-1700: The Making of the Metropolis*

Louis, W.R., *Imperialism at Bay*

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Low, D.A., *Eclipse of Empire*

MacDonald, Michael, *Sleepless Soul: Suicide in Early Modern England*

MacKenzie, John, *Propaganda and Empire: The Manipulation of British Public Opinion, 1880-1960*

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 Muenger, Elizabeth, *British Military Dilemma in Ireland: Occupation Politics, 1886-1914*
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 Multiple Muses of Virginia Woolf, *The*
 Nehring, Neil, *Flowers in the dustbin: Culture, Anarchy, and Postwar England*
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 Paz, D. G., *Popular Anti-Catholicism in Mid-Victorian England*
 Peterson, M. Jeanne, *Family, Love and Work in the Lives of Victorian Gentlemen*
 Policing the Em pire: *Government, Authority, Control, 1830-1940*
 Porter, A. M., *Origins of the South African War*
 Porter, James, *The Traditional Music of Britain and Ireland*
 Pool, Daniel, *What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew the Facts of Daily Life of Nineteenth-Century England*
Popular Culture and Class Conflict, 1590-1914

Prill, Felician, *Ireland, Britain and Germany, 1871-1914: Problems of Nationalism and Religion in Nineteenth-Century Europe*

Rackin, Donald, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass: Nonsense, Sense and Meaning*

Religion and Revolution in Early Industrial England: The Halevy Thesis and Its Critics

Religion in the Lives of English Women, 1760-1930

Rhodes, Rita, *Women and the Family in Post-Famine Ireland*

Rich, Norman, *Why the Crimean War? A Cautionary Tale*

Rich, Paul, *Race and Empire in British Politics*

Roberts, Michael, *British Diplomacy and Swedish Politics, 1758-1773*

Rogers, Katharine, *Feminism in Eighteenth-Century England*

Rose, N. A., *Gentile Zionists: A Study in Anglo-Zionist Diplomacy, 1929-1939*

Rose, Sonya, *Limited Livelihoods: Gender and Class in Nineteenth-Century England*

Roskill, Stephen, *The War at Sea, 1939-1945*

Rothstein, Andrew, *Peter the Great and Marlborough*

Rubenstein, David, *Before the Suffragettes: Women's Emancipation in the 1890s*

Rule, John, *The Experience of Labour in Eighteenth-Century English Industry*
 _____, *The Labouring Classes in Early Industrial England, 1750-1850*

Sandiforth, Keith, *Great Britain and the Schleswig-Holstein Question, 1848-1864*

Sanecki, Kay, *History of the English Herb Garden*

Saumarez Smith, Charles, *Eighteenth-Century Decoration: Design and the Domestic Interiors of England*

Scheuermann, Mona, *Her Bread to Earn: women, Money and Society from Defoe to Austen*

Scotland and England, 1286-1815

Severn, J. K., *A Wellesley Affair: Richard Marquess Wellsley and Conduct of Anglo-Spanish Diplomacy, 1809-1812*

Shonhorn, Manuel, *Defoe's Politics: Parliament, Power, Kingship, and Robinson Crusoe*

Simmons, Jack, *The Railway in Town and country, 1830-1914*

Skablow, Jeffrey, *Paradise Dislocated: Morris, Politics and Art*

Smellie, Kingsley, *Great Britain Since 1688*

Smith, Joseph, *Illusion of Conflict: Anglo-American Diplomacy Toward Latin America, 1865-1896*

Smith, Warren, *John Wesley and Slavery*

Smuts, Jan Christian, *War-Time Speeches*

Smyth, Denis, *Diplomacy and Strategy of Survival: British Policy and Franco's Spain, 1940-1941*

Spector, Robert, *Political Controversy: A Study in Eighteenth-Century Propaganda*

Spellman, W.M., *Latitudinarians and the Church of England, 1660-1700*

Spinelli, Lawrence, *Dry Diplomacy: The United States, Great Britain, and Prohibition*

Steiner, Zara, *Britain and the Origins of the First World War*

Stevens, Kenneth, *Border Diplomacy: The Caroline and McLeod Affairs in Anglo-American-Canadian Relations, 1832-1842*

Stewart, Ehea Talley, *Five in Afghanistan, 1914-1929*

Stoler, Mark, *The Politics of the Second Front, 1941-1943*

Stone, Lawrence, *Road to Divorce: England, 1530-1982*
 _____, *Uncertain Unions: Marriage in England, 1660-1753*

Strangers Within the Realm: Cultural Margins of the First British Empire

Strobel, Margaret, *European Women and the Second British Empire*

Suleri, Sara, *The Rhetoric of English India*

Swingle, L.J., *Romanticism and Anthony Trollope*

Tarling, Nicholas, *The Fall of Imperial Britain*

Taylor, A.J.P., *English History, 1914-1945*
 _____, *The First World War: An Illustrated History*
 _____, *The Origins of the Second World War*
 _____, *The Second World War: An Illustrated History*
 _____, *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe*
 _____, *The Projection of Britain: British Overseas Publicity and Propaganda, 1919, 1939*

Thirst, Joan, *Agricultural Regions and Agrarian History in England, 1500-1750*

Thompson, David, *History of the Late War Between Great Britain and the United States*

Tilby, A. W., *British India, 1600-1828*

Tischler, Steven, *Footballers and Businessmen: The Origins of Professional Soccer in England*

Tocqueville, Alexis de, *Journey to England and Ireland*

Toohey, Robert, *Liberty and Empire*

Townshend, Charles, *The British Campaign in Ireland, 1919-1921*

Tucker, Robert, *The Fall of the First British Empire*

Ubbelohde, Carl, *The American Colonies and the British Empire*

Underdown, David, *Fire from Heaven: Life of an English Town in the Seventeenth Century*

Valenze, Deborah, *Prophetic Sons and Daughters: Female Preaching and Popular Religion in Industrial England*

Vasey, David, *The Pub and English Social Change*

Vellacott, Jo, *Bertrand Russell and the Pacifists in the First World War*

Victoria and Albert Museum, *Four Hundred Years of Fashion*

Wallis, Irene, *England's Holy War: A Study of English Liberal Idealism During the Great War*

Ward-Jackson, P. W., *English Furniture Design of the Eighteenth Century*

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