

July 6, 2011

British History, Literature and Politics
Fall Semester 2011 Fridays 4:30-7:30 p.m.

(Meets also informally with Faculty Seminar on British Studies Fridays 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)

LAH 350 TC 325 H 366N
Fall Semester 2011

W. Roger Louis
HRC 3.202
Office Hours Thursday 2-3
and by Appointment

HRC 3.204-6

This seminar is designed as a reading course in history, literature, and politics, and as a class in professional writing. In addition to the required reading listed below, each student draws up an individual reading list (drawn from a prepared larger list) in consultation with the professor.

The scope of the seminar includes not only the literature, history, and politics of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland but also the interaction of British and other societies throughout the world. One point of emphasis will be the history of the British Empire and Commonwealth in its Asian and African as well as early American dimensions.

Another point will be a focus on historical and literary biography—and autobiography—for example, not only Disraeli, Virginia Woolf, T. E. Lawrence, and George Orwell but also Gandhi.

The main requirements of the course are met by students reading a book or its equivalent each week and by submitting a weekly critique of the reading. Each of the weekly essays is circulated to all other members of the class who make annotations on style as well as substance. The class thus becomes as much a course in professional writing as one in which individual academic interests are pursued.

The class also meets on a voluntary basis with the British Studies faculty seminar 2:30-4:30 pm. on Fridays HRC 3.204-6.

The seminar upholds the principles of the Modern History Faculty at Oxford—to enhance (1) intellectual curiosity; (2) conceptual clarity; (3) accuracy and attention to detail; (4) lucid and succinct style; (5) capacity for hard work.

Grades are determined by attendance and participation in discussion (25%) and the quality of the weekly critiques (75%). The course carries Writing and Global Cultures flags.

Reading List—The following books are required – (plus other books, one a week, to be decided upon in consultation with the instructor):

Lytton Strachey, <u>Eminent Victorians</u>	critique due September 3
Norman Davies, <u>The Isles</u>	critique due September 17
Hermione Lee, <u>Virginia Woolf</u>	critique due October 1

