History of Britain from 1783 to World War I

HIS 358M (39630) & EUS 346 (36472)
Spring Semester 2013

UTC 3.134
Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Instructor
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Course Description
This lecture class surveys the political, social, economic, and intellectual history of Great Britain over the course of the “long nineteenth century” from the reign of King George III (1760-1820) to the outbreak and conduct of the First World War (1914-1918). The central themes of the lectures are the modernization of British state and society, the development and crisis of classical liberalism, and the island kingdom’s rise to global hegemony as well as the beginnings of its geo-political and economic decline. The long nineteenth century (c. 1780-1918) was the hothouse in which the modern world was made; Britain and its vast
empire were at the century’s center. As such, the course aims not only to examine long-nineteenth-century British history but also to elucidate the nature and dynamics of modern society.

We will examine such topics as the break-up of Britain’s Atlantic empire and the American Revolution; the origins and development of British rule in India; the struggle between political radicalism and political reaction in the era of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars; industrialization, proletarianization, and the formation of a class society; the struggle for parliamentary reform and mass democracy; the rise of the social-democratic workers’ movement; the creation of a world economy; the development of classical liberalism and socialism; the Great Power rivalry, empire-building, and global economic downturn of the late nineteenth century; and the outbreak and conduct of the First World War.

**Global Cultures Flag**
This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

**Assignments and Assessment**

**Attendance (10%)**: This is a lecture course but there will be opportunities for class discussion when time allows. Students are expected to do all of the assigned readings and to attend the lectures. An attendance sheet will be passed around at the beginning of every class. Students are responsible for signing this sheet by the end of each class session. Each student is allowed two unexcused absences. The attendance grade will be decreased by one third of a letter for each additional unexcused absence (e.g., A- to B+, B+ to B, etc.). In order to have an absence excused, students must provide documentation (e.g., a doctor’s note) to the instructor or the teaching assistant.

**Reading Review Paper (20%)**: Students are required to choose one of the primary sources assigned for any given set of lectures and to write a paper of three to five pages in length that analyzes the source in its historical context. What does the source say? What does it mean in terms of the historical issues and developments we’ve examined in the course? What did you learn from the source about the period in which it was written? The reading review paper must be turned into the instructor or the teaching assistant no later than Thursday, April 4. It is strongly recommended that students complete and turn in papers earlier. It is also strongly recommended that students visit the Undergraduate Writing Center in order to receive advice and assistance when writing reading review papers.
Mid-Term Essay Exam (30%): A take-home mid-term essay exam focusing on major themes and topics examined in the lectures and readings for the first part of the course will be handed out at the end of class on Thursday, February 28 and must be returned at the beginning of class on Thursday, March 7. Students will be provided with four essay questions and are required to answer two of them.

Final Essay Exam (40%): A take-home final essay exam focusing on major themes and topics examined in the lectures and readings for the entire course will be handed out on the last day of class – Thursday, May 2 – and must be slipped under the instructor’s office door (GAR 3.218) by 5:00 PM on Friday, May 10. Students will be provided with six essay questions and are required to answer three of them.

Please note that plus/minus grades (e.g., A-, B+, C-, etc.) will be assigned for the final grade in this course.

The Undergraduate Writing Center
Please consider visiting the Undergraduate Writing Center (FAC 211; 512-471-6222; http://uwc.utexas.edu/home) in order to discuss your reading review paper with a member of its staff. The following paragraph contains a description of the services provided by the UWC.

The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. They work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Whether you are writing a lab report, a resume, a term paper, a statement for an application, or your own poetry, UWC consultants will be happy to work with you. Their services are not just for writing with “problems.” Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant's advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work.

Academic Conduct
Students are required to uphold the standards of academic integrity set by the University of Texas at Austin. The standards and regulations for academic integrity are available online at:

http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/history/about/academic-integrity.php
All work must be your own and all cases of plagiarism will automatically result in a failing grade for the course as a whole. There will be no deadline extensions or incomplete grades unless the instructor is presented with a legitimate and documented excuse in advance of the relevant due date.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities (512-471-6259). If you require additional assistance, please inform the instructor so that proper arrangements can be made.

**Required Text (available for purchase at the University Co-op)**

**Schedule of Lectures and Readings**
In addition to the required textbook, there are assigned readings available as Adobe PDFs or via website links on Blackboard under “Course Documents.” The readings available on Blackboard are marked with the label “[Blackboard].”

Please note the following symbols for the assigned readings available on Blackboard:
* – Assigned readings with this symbol are drawn from:
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Students should complete the assigned readings for each week by the beginning of class on Tuesday.

**Week 1 – Tuesday, January 15 & Thursday, January 17**
Introduction to the course & survey of British history before the “long nineteenth century”
Readings:
None.

**Week 2 – Tuesday, January 22 & Thursday, January 24**
The political, social, and economic history of Britain in the late eighteenth century
Readings:
Week 3 – Tuesday, January 29 & Thursday, January 31
The global crisis of the British Empire and the early reign of King George III: the Seven Years’ War, the American Revolution, and the foundations of British rule in India, c. 1750-1790
Readings:
2. Robert Clive, “Letter to Secretary of State William Pitt” (January 7, 1759) [Blackboard].
3. King George III, “Speech from the Throne” (1760) [Blackboard].*
4. Major John Cartwright, “The Need for Radical Reform” (1776) [Blackboard].*
5. Edmund Burke, “Conciliation with America” (1775) [Blackboard].*
7. King George III, “Speech from the Throne” (October 1775) [Blackboard].*
8. “The Declaration of Independence” (1776) [Blackboard].*
10. King George III, “Letter to Lord North” (November 26, 1778) [Blackboard].*

Week 4 – Tuesday, February 5 & Thursday, February 7
From reform to reaction: British politics in the age of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, c. 1782-1815
Readings:
2. Edmund Burke, “Reflections on the Revolution in France” (1790) [Blackboard].*
3. Thomas Paine, “The Rights of Man” (1791) [Blackboard].*
4. Mary Wollstonecraft, “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman” (1792) [Blackboard].*

Week 5 – Tuesday, February 12 & Thursday, February 14
The making of the “workshop of the world”: the first phase of Britain’s Industrial Revolution, c. 1780-1850
Readings:
3. John Aikin, “A Description of ... Manchester” (1795) [Blackboard].*
5. Yorkshire Cloth Workers, “A Petition Against Scribbling Machines” (1786) [Blackboard].*
6. Leeds Woollen Merchants, “In Defense of Machinery” (1791) [Blackboard].*
**Week 6 – Tuesday, February 19 & Thursday, February 21**

From reaction to reform: British politics from Waterloo and Peterloo to the Great Reform Act, c. 1815-1832

Readings:
2. Samuel Bamford, “Passages in the Life of a Radical: On the Peterloo Massacre” (1819) [Blackboard].
3. Thomas Babington Macaulay, “Parliamentary Reform” (1831) [Blackboard].

**Week 7 – Tuesday, February 26 & Thursday, February 28**

The frayiing of Radicalism and the threat of revolution: Chartism, the Anti-Corn Law League, and the growing divergence between liberalism and social democracy, c. 1832-1852

Readings:
3. James Kay, “The Moral and Physical Condition of the Working Classes … in Manchester” (1832) [Blackboard].*
5. “The People’s Petition” (1838) [Blackboard].
6. William Lovett and John Collins, “Chartism: A New Organization of the People” (1840) [Blackboard].•
7. W. J. Fox, “Speech before the Anti-Corn Law League” (September 28, 1843) [Blackboard].

The take-home mid-term essay exam will be handed out at the end of class on Thursday, February 28. It is due at the beginning of class one week later on Thursday, March 7.

**Week 8 – Tuesday, March 5 & Thursday, March 7**

The Great Boom, the making of a world economy, and the second phase of Britain’s Industrial Revolution, c. 1848-1880

Readings:

**SPRING BREAK**
Week 9 – Tuesday, March 19 & Thursday, March 21
Liberalism triumphant? – Part 1: Mid-Victorian society, the Pax Britannica, and the apogee of bourgeois civilization, c. 1848-1875
Readings:
2. James Wilson, “The First Half of the Nineteenth Century: Progress of the Nation and the Race” (1851) [Blackboard].*
3. “Two Articles from *The Economist*” (1851) [Blackboard].
4. “The Religious Census” (1851) [Blackboard].*
5. Lieutenant John Ouchterlony, “The Chinese War” (1844) [Blackboard].
6. William Rathbone Greg, “Shall We Retain our Colonies?” (1851) [Blackboard].
7. Richard Cobden, “Russia and the Eastern Question” (1854) [Blackboard].

Week 10 – Tuesday, March 26 & Thursday, March 28
Liberalism triumphant? – Part 2: British politics, parliamentary reform, and the struggle for democracy, c. 1852-1880
Readings:
3. John Stuart Mill, “Considerations on Representative Government” (1861) [Blackboard].*
4. John Bright, “The Case for Democracy” (1865) [Blackboard].*
5. Robert Lowe, “The Case Against Democracy” (1867) [Blackboard].*
6. Benjamin Disraeli, “Third Reading of the Reform Bill” (1867) [Blackboard].

Week 11 – Tuesday, April 2 & Thursday, April 4
The global economic downturn, Great Power rivalry, and the New Imperialism, c. 1870-1900
Readings:
3. Benjamin Disraeli, “Conservative and Liberal Principles” (1872) [Blackboard].
5. Sir Richard Temple, “Principles of British Policy in Egypt” (1882) [Blackboard].
6. Annie Besant, “Egypt” (1882) [Blackboard].
7. Joseph Chamberlain, “The True Conception of Empire” (1897) [Blackboard].*
8. Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden” (1898) [Blackboard].*
9. George Bernard Shaw, “Fabianism and the Empire” (1900) [Blackboard].
The reading review paper is due no later than the beginning of class on Thursday, April 4.

**Week 12 – Tuesday, April 9 & Thursday, April 11**
The crisis of classical liberalism, the growth of the labor movement, and the shift toward the welfare state: the challenges of socialism, the new conservatism, and social liberalism, c. 1880-1914
Readings:
2. E. M. Clerke, “The Dock Labourers’ Strike” (1889) [Blackboard].•
3. Thomas Burt, “Labour in Parliament” (1889) [Blackboard].•
5. George Bernard Shaw, “Report on Fabian Policy” (1896) [Blackboard].*
6. Joseph Chamberlain, “Tariff Reform and Unemployment” (1904) [Blackboard].*
7. Winston S. Churchill, “Liberalism and Socialism” (1906) [Blackboard].*
8. David Lloyd George, “The New Liberalism” (1908) [Blackboard].*

**Week 13 – Tuesday, April 16 & Thursday, April 18**
British politics in an age of domestic and global turbulence – Part 1, c. 1880 to 1900
Readings:
2. Sir Henry Maine, “Popular Government” (1885) [Blackboard].*
3. Millicent Garrett Fawcett, “The Women’s Suffrage Bill” (1889) [Blackboard].•
4. William Gladstone, “The Case for Home Rule” (1886) [Blackboard].*
5. The Marquess of Hartington, “The Case Against Home Rule” (1886) [Blackboard].*

**Week 14 – Tuesday, April 23 & Thursday, April 25**
British politics in an age of domestic and global turbulence – Part 2, c. 1895 to 1914
Readings:
2. Joseph Chamberlain, “Preference, the True Imperial Policy” (February 1, 1905) [Blackboard].
3. The Earl of Cromer, “Modern Egypt” (1908) [Blackboard].
5. John Redmond, “The Case Against Ulster” (1913) [Blackboard].*
Week 15 – Tuesday, April 30 & Thursday, May 2
The Great War and the terminal crisis of bourgeois civilization, c. 1914-1918
Readings:
2. Sir Edward Grey, “Statement to the House of Commons” (August 3, 1914) [Blackboard].*
3. Herbert Henry Asquith, “Justification for War” (1914) [Blackboard].*
4. Siegfried Sassoon, “War Poems” (1915-1917) [Blackboard].*
5. Bertrand Russell, “Reflections on Pacifism in Wartime” (1914-1918) [Blackboard].*

The take-home final essay exam will be handed out at the end of class on Thursday, May 2. It is due at the instructor’s office (GAR 3.218) by 5:00 PM on Friday, May 10.