

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

History 124 Semester I, 2005-2006
 British History since 1688 Mr. Donnelly

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 124 is the second half of a two-semester sequence surveying the history of England and the British empire. The course extends from the “Bloodless Revolution” of 1688 to the “Welfare State” and the collapse or abandonment of empire in the aftermath of World War II.

History 124 is concerned with the transformation of England from a thinly settled, mainly rural, economically underdeveloped, and politically unstable nation in the late 17th century into a thickly peopled and heavily urbanized country renowned for political stability in the 19th and 20th centuries. One major objective of the course will be to illuminate the process by which England achieved stable constitutional monarchy, based on a powerful elite of landed and monied families, and the ways in which this form of government peacefully evolved into a parliamentary democracy controlled by the masses. A second goal will be to explain how England harnessed its modest economic resources in such a way as to give birth to the epoch-making Industrial Revolution, and how the new industrial society moved from private enterprise and laissez-faire to socialism and the welfare state. A third objective will be to draw meaning from Britain's great extension and exploitation of empire in the 18th and 19th centuries as well as from the collapse of the imperial edifice in the 20th.

LECTURES

Lectures three days per week (MWF, 11-11:50), supplemented by weekly discussion meetings and audio-visual presentations.

EXAMS

Besides a final exam, there will be either one or two hour exams, depending upon the decision of the students during the first week of class.

GRADING SYSTEM

If the students decide to have only one hour exam plus the final, the grade for the course will be determined on the following basis: active interest and regular participation in discussion, 15 percent; hour exam, 35 percent; final exam, 50 percent. If, on the other hand, the students decide to have two hour exams, plus the final, a number of grading options will be offered, allowing students to determine, within broad limits, how they wish their grade for the course to be determined. How the options work will be explained on the first day of class.

REQUIRED READINGS

Briggs, Asa, Victorian People (Chicago University Press).

Heyck, Thomas William, The Peoples of the British Isles: A New History, Vol. 2: From 1688 to 1870, and Vol. 3: From 1870 to the Present (Lyceum Books).

Hobsbawm, E. J., Industry and Empire. Pelican Economic History of England, Vol. 3 (The New Press).

Miller, John, James II (Yale University Press).

Porter, Bernard, The Lion's Share (Longman).

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
9/2-9/9	1. Crown and Parliament under the Later Stuarts, 1660-88
9/12-9/16	2. The Bloodless Revolution: Defended and Confirmed, 1688-1714
9/19-9/23	3. Early Eighteenth-Century England, 1714-42
9/26-9/30	4. Scotland, Ireland, and the Empire
10/3-10/7	5. The New Religion and the New Politics, 1770-89
10/10-10/14	6. The Economic Revolution, 1780-1840
10/17-10/21	7. Britain and the French Revolution, 1789-1815
10/24-10/28	8. The Growth of Liberalism and the Triumph of Reform, 1815-47
10/31-11/4	9. Social Discord and Liberal Consensus, 1830-67
11/7-11/11	10. The Claims of Democracy and Nationality, 1867-1900
11/14-11/18	11. Imperialism, 1870-1914
11/21-11/25	12. Social Reform, 1870-1914
11/28-12/2	13. Britain and World War I
12/5-12/9	14. The Interwar Years, 1918-39
12/12-12/16	15. Great Challenges since 1939: War, Welfare, and Disimperialism

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History 124

Required Reading

Mr. Donnelly

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
9/2-9/9	Crown and Parliament under the Later Stuarts, 1660-88	Heyck, 3-32; Miller, 1-119
9/12-9/16	The Bloodless Revolution: Defended and Confirmed, 1688-1714	Heyck, 32-45; Miller, 120-242
9/19-9/23	Early Eighteenth-Century England, 1714-42	Heyck, 47-82
9/26-9/30	Scotland, Ireland and the Empire	Heyck, 105-37, 159-72
10/3-10/7	The New Religion and the New Politics, 1770-89	Heyck, 141-57 (83-103, 215-33)
10/10-10/14	The Economic Revolution, 1780-1840	Heyck, 173-96; Hobsbawm, 23-108
10/17-10/21	Britain and the French Revolution, 1789-1815	Heyck, 197-214
10/24-10/28	The Growth of Liberalism and the Triumph of Reform, 1815-47	Heyck, 237-69, 281-87; Briggs, 1-139
10/31-11/4	Social Discord and Liberal Consensus, 1830-67	Heyck, 270-79, 287-96, 297-317; Briggs, 140-299; Hobsbawm, Chaps. 6-7
11/7-- 11/11	The Claims of Democracy and Nationality, 1867-1900	Heyck, 61-72, 43-59; Porter, 1-151
11/14-11/18	Imperialism, 1870-1914	Heyck, 85-106; Porter, 152-232
11/21-11/25	Social Reform, 1870-1914	Heyck, 23-35, 72-83; Hobsbawm, Chaps. 8-10
11/28-12/2	Britain and World War I	Heyck, 109-45; Porter, 233-58
12/5-12/9	The Interwar Years, 1918-39	Heyck, 149-92; Porter, 259-302; Hobsbawm, 207-48
12/12-12/16	Great Challenges since 1939: War, Welfare, and Disimperialism	Heyck, 217-64; Porter, 303-54