

# History 124: Britain since 1688

*Spring 2014*

*Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00-5:15*

*1121 Mosse Humanities Building*

Professor Daniel Ussishkin

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## Teaching Assistants:

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The course introduces students to the major themes in the history of modern imperial Britain and to some of the ways historians have tried to make sense of it all. Such themes include (but not limited to) the changing patterns of life during those centuries, the development of modern identities and notions of the self, the emergence of a modern, commercial civil society, the rise of industrial capitalism, liberalism, the modern state, and imperial and total war (for more details see the lecture schedule below). We will pay particular attention to gender in terms of both “lived experience” and representations of power (and its critique), and to the transnational nature of modern British history, largely, but not only, through the history of the economic, political, and cultural foundations of the modern British empire.

The course consists of two lectures per week and one discussion section. Attendance to both is required. The textbook is merely a teaching aid and is **not** a substitute for lectures (most of the material covered in the lectures does not appear in the textbook).

### **Required Books:**

1. Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (Modern Library edition 2004, ISBN 0-375-76115-2)
2. George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (Penguin edition, ISBN 0-14-118529-5)
3. Samuel Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners* (Longman, ISBN 978-0-582-64264-5)

### Textbook:

4. Ellis Wasson, *Modern Britain: 1714 to the Present* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

All books are available at the bookstore. However, are **not** required to purchase these particular editions. There are many other editions of the books available for purchase at a very low price. Wiley sells electronic editions of Wasson through their website.

In addition to the books there are numerous primary sources. Most of these are available on the web (and are hyperlinked on this syllabus). Others are available in PDF format. Links to all sources are available at Learn@UW → Materials → Content. You are required to **print** the sources and bring the hard copy to discussion section.

**Important:** The readings for each week will be discussed in section during the following week. For instance, readings for Week I will be discussed 01/27 and 01/29.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

- 3-4-pp. paper: 10% (due 02/18)
- Midterm: 20% (03/13, in class)
- 5-pp. paper: 25% (due 05/01)
- Final: 30% (05/16, 2:45pm-4:45pm, location TBA)
- Section: 15%

\*Papers should be submitted in **both** a hard copy as well as electronically (Learn@UW → Assignments → Dropbox). No additional reading will be required for either paper.

\*Your TA will discuss the components of your section grade in greater detail. Please note that active and enthusiastic participation in section, and hard work overall, will be rewarded!

### **Week I**

**01/21**      ***Why Britain?***

**01/23**      ***Restoration Britain***

Read:

\*Gregory King's "Social Table" for 1688 (1696).

\*Richard Baxter on oppression of husbandmen (from Ann Hughes, *Seventeenth Century England*).

-Wasson, 15-36

### **Week II**

**01/28**      Guest Lecture

**01/30**      ***The Glorious Revolution***

Read:

\*John Locke, Second Treatise on Government (1690) (chapters II and VII)

\*Richard Price on the Glorious Revolution, from Steven Pincus, *England's Glorious Revolution: A Brief History with Documents* (2006).

\*Edmund Burke on the Glorious Revolution, from Pincus (2006).

- On the Glorious Revolution, read the relevant parts online from Wasson, Chapter 0.

### **Week III**

**02/04**      ***War, Finance, and Trade***

Read:

\*Bernard Mandeville, "The Grumbling Hive" (1705) (entire)

\*Addison on the Bank of England and the Allegory of Lady Credit, *The Spectator* (1711), from Erin Mackie, *The Commerce of Everyday Life: Selections from the Tatler and the Spectator* (Bedford, 1998)

\*Addison's Allegory of Luxury and Avarice, *Spectator* (1711), from Mackie, 1998

-Wasson, 9-14, 39-47.

**02/06**      ***An Enlightened Public Sphere?***

Read:

\* The First English Coffee Houses (1670s)

**Week IV**

**02/11**      ***Commerce and Politeness***

**02/13**      ***The American and French Revolutions – in Britain***

Read:

- \*Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1791)
- \*Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)
- \*Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man* (1791)
- Wasson, chapter 3.

**Week V**

**02/18**      ***The Abolition of Slavery***

Read:

- \*Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* (entire).

**\*\*1<sup>st</sup> paper due in class 02/18\*\***

**02/20**      ***The Industrial Revolution***

Read:

- \* P. Gaskell, *The Manufacturing Population of England* (1833)
- Wasson, 94-105.

**Week VI**

**02/25**      ***The Politics of Class***

Read:

- \*Samuel Bamford, *Passages in the Life of a Radical* (1893 [1840])
- \*Samuel Smiles, *Self Help* (1882)
- Wasson, 94-108.

**02/27**      ***Political Economy and the Poverty Question***

Read:

- \*Adam Smith , “Digression Concerning the Corn Trade and Corn Laws,” from his *Wealth of Nations* (1776), vol. 2 book v.
- \*Thomas R. Malthus, *An Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798), chapters 1,2.

## **Week VII**

**03/04**      ***Liberalism and Reform***

Read:

\*T. B. Macaulay's Speech on the Reform Bill (1832)

-Wasson, 130-138,

**03/06**      ***"Liberal" Imperialism***

Read:

\*Edmund Burke, Speech in Commons on India (1783)

\* William Bentinck on Ritual Murder in India (1829)

\*Thomas Babington Macaulay, Minute on Indian Education (1835)

- Wasson, 169-180.

**Note:** Readings for Week VII will be discussed on 03/24 and 03/26;  
discussion sections on 03/10 and 03/12 will be devoted to midterm review

## **Week VIII**

**03/11**      ***The Triumph of Free Trade***

Read:

\*Lead Editorial on the Irish Famine, London Times, February 10, 1846

-Wasson, 152-157.

**03/13**      ***MIDTERM***

**\*\*SPRING BREAK\*\***

## **Week IX**

**03/25**      ***Imperial Nation***

Read:

\*Elisa Greathed on the opening of the Indian Mutiny (1857)

\*John A. Hobson, *Imperialism* (1902).

\*Rudyard Kipling, *White Man's Burden* (1899)

\*George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (1936)

**03/27**      ***The Strange Death of Liberal England***

Read:

\*Blease on New Liberalism (1913)

\*Emmeline Pankhurst on Militant Suffragists (1913)

-Wasson, 189-196, 199-203 (end of page), 208-221, 225-228,

**Week X**

**04/01**      ***The Great War***

Read:

\*Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1918)

\*Letter from the front describing the experience in the trenches (from Susan Grayzel, *The First World War: A Brief History with Documents* (Boston, 2013).

\*Letter from a British officer, describing the Battle of the Somme, from Grayzel, 2013.

\*Letter from a soldier in the British Indian Army, from David Omissi, *Indian Voices of the Great War* (London, 1999).

-Wasson, 241-253.

**04/03**      ***Reconstruction***

Read:

\*Marie Stopes, *Married Love* (1918) (Author's Introduction only)

**Week XI**

**04/08**      ***Depression and Unemployment***

Read:

George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (entire)

-Wasson, 253-264, 267-281.

Watch:

*Love on the Dole* (d. John Baxter, 1941); streaming available through Learn@UW.

**04/10**      ***The People's War***

Read:

-Wasson, 267-281.

## **Week XII**

**04/15**      ***The Quest for Consensus***

Read:

\*The Beveridge Report (1940) (first two sections only)

\*Contemporary reflections on the coronation.

\*"Let Us Face the Future," Labour Party's Manifesto (1945)

**04/17**      ***Consumerism, Youth, and Permissiveness***

Read:

\*Gay Liberation Front, *Manifesto* (1971)

\*Philip Larkin, "Annus Mirabilis"

-Wasson, 281-295.

## **Week XIII**

**04/22**      ***Decolonization***

Read:

\*Statute of Westminster (1931)

\*Testimonies from the Mau Mau Uprising

-Wasson, 295-301.

**04/24**      ***Troubles***

Read:

\*Proclamation of the Irish Republic (1916)

\*John Conroy, *Belfast Diaries* (1995)

-Wasson, 295-301, 315-320.

**Writing Workshop:** sections will be devoted to writing skills and peer review of rough drafts.

## **Week XIV**

**04/29**      ***Immigration and Race***

Read:

\*Samuel Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners* (entire).

\*Enoch Powell, Rivers of Blood Speech (1968)

-Wasson, 295-315

**05/01**      ***Thatcher's Britain***

-5 pp. paper due 05/01-

**Week XV**

**05/06      *Neo-Liberalism and Globalization***

Read:

-Wasson, 320-333.

**05/08      *Final Review***

*-Final exam: 05/16 2:45 pm-4:45 pm-*