

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester I, 1972-73

History 363

Modern Britain, 1780-1870

Mr. Carr

Conspectus of Lectures

I. BRITAIN IN 1780

Week I

August 28 The Central Themes of British History
August 30 The Land and the People
September 1 The Social Chain of Being

Week II

September 4 Labor Day, A Holiday
September 6 The Economic Framework
September 7-8 Discussion Sessions

Week III

September 11 The Allocation of Power
September 13 Law and Disorder
September 15 Worldly Piety and Saving Grace

II. BRITAIN, 1780-1815: REVOLUTIONS AND WAR

Week IV

September 18 The Industrial Revolution
September 20 Doing Good and Finding Truth
September 22 The Cauldron of Politics, 1760-1784

Week V

September 25 The Achievement of William Pitt
September 27 England at War
September 28-29 Discussion Sessions

III. CURRENTS OF REFORM, 1815-1832

Week VI

October 2 The Aftermath of Napoleon
October 4 Toryism in the Saddle
October 6 Liberal Toryism in Action

PAPER DUE

Week VII

October 9 Catholic Emancipation and Its Consequences

October 11 The Reform Bill of 1832
 October 12-13 Discussion Sessions

IV. "LIBERALISM" AND ITS OPPONENTS, 1832-1841

Week VIII

October 16 The Political Consequences of Reform
 October 18 The Workhouse and the Factory
 October 20 Clerics in Revolt: Church Reform and the Oxford Movement.

Week IX

October 23 The Working Classes in Revolt: Trade Unionism and Chartism
 October 25 Political Upheavals: The Anti-Corn Law League and the Election of 1841.
 October 27 HOUR EXAMINATION

V. THE HUNGRY FORTIES

Week X

October 30 The Industrial Revolution, Phase Two
 November 1 The Condition of England
 November 2-3 Discussion Sessions

Week XI

November 6 Robert Peel and Liberal Toryism: The Law, The Church, and the Factory
 November 8 Robert Peel and Liberal Toryism: The Triumph of Free Trade
 November 10 The Whigs and Revolution

VI. MID-VICTORIAN YEARS, 1850-1867

Week XII

November 13 Society at Mid-Century
 November 15 Economy at Mid-Century
 November 16-17 Discussion Sessions

Week XIII

November 20 Science and Faith
 November 22 Darwin's Bombshell
 November 25 Thanksgiving Holiday

Week XIV

November 27 The Confusion of Parties
 November 29 A Liberal State at War

November 30-Dec. 1 Discussion Sessions

Week XV

December 4 1867: An End and A Beginning
 December 6 A Summing Up: The Intellectual Pilgrimage of John Stuart Mill
 December 7-8 Discussion Sessions

Required Reading

Week I

W. G. Hoskins The Making of the English Landscape, Chapters 5 and 6.
 David Cecil The Young Melbourne, prologue, and Chapters 1 and 2 (Zerox Copies on reserve).
 R. K. Webb Modern England, Appendices 2, 3, and 4, "Titles, Honors, and the Peerage"; "The Church of England" and "The English Courts".

Week II: Discussion Session

Adam Smith The Wealth of Nations, Book I, Chapters 1-8; Book III (skim); Book IV, Chapter 1 and pp. 625-626; Book V, Chapter I, Part III (skim with an eye to understanding the powers Smith allocated to the state.)

Week III

George Rudé Paris and London in the 18th Century, Part 1 and the last three essays of Part III.
 Sir Lewis Namier The Structure of Politics at the Accession of George III, Preface to 1st edition; Part I, "Why Men Went into Parliament"; and Part III, "The General Election of 1761".
 Review Appendices 3 and 4 in Webb, Modern England

Week IV

H. Butterfield George III, Lord North, and the People, conclusion
 Namier "Monarchy and the Party System," zeroxed in reserve library from Personalities and Powers.

Week V: Discussion Session

Richard Pares King George III and the Politicians

Week VI: Paper Due. Suggested topic: "Two forces--The influence of the Crown and the Self-interests of the Aristocracy--Explain British Politics in the last half of the 18th Century."

Week VII: Discussion Session

E. Halévy	<u>The Birth of Methodism in England</u>
E. P. Thompson	<u>The Making of the English Working Class</u> , Chapters 1,2,3, 11, and sections 1 and 5 of Chapter 14.

Week VIII

One of the following:

Charles Dickens	<u>Sketches by Boz</u> , "Our Parish," "Scenes," and Chapters 5,6, and 10 of "Characters."
E. L. Bulwer	<u>England and the English</u> (selections to be announced).
O. Chadwick	<u>The Mind of the Oxford Movement</u>
Michael Rose	<u>Poverty</u>
J. S. Mill	<u>Bentham and Coleridge</u>

Week IX: Hour ExaminationWeek X: Discussion Session

Thomas Carlyle	<u>Past and Present</u> , Books 1 and 4
Philip A. M. Taylor	<u>The Industrial Revolution in Britain: Triumph or Disaster?</u>

Week XI

W. L. Burn	<u>The Age of Equipoise</u> , Chapters 1, 5, and 6.
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Week XII: Discussion Session

J. S. Mill	"On Liberty"; optional: <u>Principles of Political Economy</u> , Book 4, Chapter 7, "On the Probable Futurity of the Labouring Classes."
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Week XIII

G. Kitson-Clark	<u>The Making of Victorian England</u>
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Week XIV: Discussion Session

John R. Vincent	<u>The Formation of the British Liberal Party</u> (on order; should arrive within the next month.)
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Week XV: Discussion Session

G. M. Young,	<u>Victorian England: Portrait of An Age.</u>
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General Surveys

Though no "textbook" readings are assigned for the course, the following works are recommended for those who might want to read a general survey:

Asa Briggs	<u>The Making of Modern England</u> (Harper Torchbook); also published in hardback under the title <u>The Age of Improvement, 1780-1867</u> . The best one volume survey
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specifically on the period covered by the course; now slightly, but not seriously out of date.

- R. K. Webb Modern England From the Eighteenth Century to the Present (Dodd-Mead Paperback). The best one volume survey of Modern England; less detailed on the period covered by the course than Briggs, but more up to date.
- Steven Watson The Reign of George III, 1760-1815.
- E. L. Woodward The Age of Reform, 1815-1870 (2nd edition, 1962).

The volumes in the Oxford History of England for the period covered by the course, with all the virtues and faults of that series: detailed narrative with corresponding lack of analysis; emphasis on political and military history to the comparative neglect of social, economic, and intellectual history; extensive bibliographies with the same focus as the text.

The most convenient bibliography outside the one in Watson and Woodward is Ian R. Christie, British History Since 1760. The most accessible and widest-ranging collection of primary sources will be found in the appropriate volumes of English Historical Documents, 1783-1832 ed. A. Aspinall and E. A. Smith; 1833-1874 ed. G. M. Young and W. D. Hancock.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE:

Meetings

(N.B.: STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS OF THE COURSE EXCEPT WHEN PREVENTED BY ILLNESS).

The meetings of the course will consist of fifty minute lecture sessions at 11:00 MWF and two-hour discussion sessions at times to be arranged. There will be 3 lectures in week during which no discussion session is scheduled, and two lectures in weeks that discussion sessions are held.

Discussion Sessions

Discussion sessions will usually, though not invariably, be held every two weeks. They will be led by the instructor and will consist of twenty-five students each. They will focus on the readings assigned, but opportunity will also be provided for questions and for general discussion of problems raised in the course. The purposes of the discussion sessions are to examine controversial issues in British history from 1780 to 1870; to acquaint students with the various materials and techniques by which historians have investigated British history; and to provide training in the formulation of historical problems and in the drawing of inferences from historical evidence. The readings have been selected with these aims in view.

AS INDICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE INSTRUCTOR WILL CONDUCT THEM, THE DISCUSSION SESSIONS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COURSE. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THEM WITHOUT FAIL AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE READINGS ASSIGNED AND FOR ANY MATERIAL PRESENTED DURING THE SESSION.

The quality (not the quantity) of students' participation in discussion will account for approximately 10% of the final course grade. By quality is meant the following: (1) Command of the reading; (2) general interest and curiosity; and (3) improvement through the semester in ability to analyze material and to use it creatively, with emphasis not on an absolute standard, but on progress.

Obviously, these three criteria presuppose attendance. To make sure they understand the material, students who must unavoidably miss a session are encouraged to turn in a six to eight page interpretive essay on the assigned reading, which the instructor will comment on and if necessary, discuss in person.

PAPERS

Students are asked to write one paper of fifteen to twenty pages which will be due on Friday, October 6. The suggested topic for the paper is: "Two forces--the influence of the Crown and the self-interest of the Aristocracy--explain British politics in the last half of the 18th century."

It is expected that the paper will be an interpretive essay drawn from readings assigned in first five weeks of the course, not a research paper. Students are, of course, welcome to do additional reading; and anyone wishing to do so should consult the instructor for guidance.

Students who want to write on another topic than that suggested should see the instructor by Friday, September 15. All papers must be on some aspect of British history between 1760 and 1800 and they must make substantial use of the readings assigned in the course.

Any student who wishes to request an extension must see the instructor by Friday, September 29, one week before the paper is due. After that date, extensions will be granted only in case of illness or really dire and unexpected emergencies. It is hoped that this arrangement will encourage students to plan their work so that the paper will represent leisurely reflection, not the frantic non-inspiration afforded by the last twelve hours before the deadline.

It is expected that the papers will be written in clear, coherent, and hopefully elegant prose.

Examinations:

There will be one hour examination and one two-hour final examination. The hour examination will be held on Friday, October 23 at the lecture hour. The final examination will be held at the regularly scheduled time during final examination week. Both will be essay examinations, and details will be discussed in class.

Grading:

The hour examination, the essay, and the final examination will be counted equally, with additional weight given to the final examination if it shows an improvement over previous grades. Approximately 90% of the grade will be based on these three pieces of work; approximately 10% of the grade will be based on the student's participation in discussion.