

History 837: Modern British Historiography

Tuesday, 11-1, 5257 Mosse

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The seminar introduces students to some of the principal topics in the historiography of modern imperial Britain. Using both older and more recent work, we will look at the types of questions that have animated research in the field and the various approaches that historians have used to answer them. Readings are organized both chronologically and thematically, and cover topics such as (but not limited to) state and government, political economy, imperial expansion and rule, gender and sexuality, the emergence of the modern self, class and its politics, liberalism, and welfarism. The seminar is based on reading and discussion. Course requirements include: analytical presentations and the introduction of questions for discussion (as needed depending on enrollment; at least once per student), two short historiographic papers, 5 pp. each, based on material discussed in class (October 25 and November 22; the papers could be based on your oral presentations, or on any other week's readings), and one longer essay (10-12pp.) due Thursday, December 15, 4:00 pm. In addition, there will be an online discussion board, to which each student will contribute a short paragraph or question.

Books:

John Brewer, The Sinews of Power (Cambridge, MA, 1990)

Judy Giles, The Parlour and the Suburb (Oxford, 2004)

Nicolletta Gullace, The Blood of Our Sons (New York, 2002)

Catherine Hall, Civilizing Subjects (Chicago, 2002).

Eric Hobsbawm, Industry and Empire, 2nd edition (New York, 1999)

Chris Otter, The Victorian Eye (Chicago, 2008).

Susan Pedersen, Family, Dependence, and the Origins of the Welfare State (Cambridge, 1993)

J. H. Plumb, The Origins of Political Stability, England 1675-1725 (Boston, 1967).

Roy Porter, The Creation of the Modern World (New York, 2000).

Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation, (New York, 1944))

E. P. Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class (London, 1963).

James Vernon, Politics and the People (Cambridge, 1993)

Dror Wahrman, The Making of the Modern Self (New Haven, CT, 2004).

Judith Walkowitz, City of Dreadful Delight (Chicago, 1992).

Wendy Webster, Englishness and Empire (Oxford, 2005).

**All books except Plumb are available at the bookstore. All other books will be placed on reserve at the College Library (we can also discuss alternative solutions).

1. September 6 Introduction

2. September 13 The Birth of the Modern?
 - *Roy Porter, The Creation of the Modern World (New York, 2000), pp. 1-257, 476-484.
 - JCD Clark, English Society, 1660-1832, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, 2000), pp. 1-42, 423-476.

3. September 20 Eighteenth-Century Politics
 - Lewis Namier, The Structure of Politics at the Accession of George III (London, 1957), pp. 1-61.
 - John Brewer, Party Ideology and Popular Politics at the Accession of George III (Cambridge, 1976), pp. 163-200.
 - James Donnelly, "The Rightboy Movement 1785-1788," Studia Hibernica 17/18 (1977-1978), 120-202.
 - E. P. Thompson, "Eighteenth-Century English Society: Class Struggle without a Class?" Social History 3:2 (1978): 133-165.
 - Frank O’Gorman, "The Unreformed Electorate of Hanoverian England: The Mid-Eighteenth Century to the Reform Act of 1832," Social History 11:1 (1986), 33-52.

4. September 27 State and Nation
 - *John Brewer, The Sinews of Power (Cambridge, MA: 1990).
 - Kathleen Wilson, The Sense of the People (Cambridge, 1998), 137-205.
 - Linda Colley, Britons (New Haven, CT: 1992), 1-10, 364-375.

5. October 4 Manufacture and Market Economies
 - *Eric Hobsbawm, Industry and Empire, 2nd edition (New York, 1999), 1-74, 87-131.
 - *Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation (New York, 1944), 1-135
 - James Donnelly, "Cork Market: Its Role in the Nineteenth-Century Irish Butter Trade," Studia Hibernica 11 (1971): 130-163.
 - Jan De Vries, "The Industrial Revolution and the Industrious Revolution," Journal of Economic History 54 (2): 249-270.
 - Cain and Hopkins, "Gentlemanly Capitalism and British Overseas Expansion" Part I (1688-1850), Economic History Review vol. 39, no. 4 (1986): 501-525.

6. October 11 Commerce and the Ethics of the Self
 - *Dror Wahrman, The Making of the Modern Self (New Haven, 2004), 3-82, 157-311.
 - Albert Hirschman, The Passions and the Interests, 3-66.
 - Thomas Laqueur, "Credit, Novels, Masturbation," in Susan Leigh Foster, ed., Choreographing History (Bloomington, 1995).

7. October 18 Class and its politics

*E. P. Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class (London, 1963), at least preface, chaps I-VI, XI, XIII-XV.

-Anna Clark, The Struggle for the Breeches (Berkeley, 1995), 1-41, 141-157, 197-219, 264-271.

Patrick Joyce, Democratic Subjects, introduction.

-Gareth Stedman Jones, "Rethinking Chartism," in his Languages of Class (Cambridge, 1983).

8. October 25 Liberalism: Political Forms

*James Vernon, Politics and the People (Cambridge, 1993), Intro, chaps 1-5, 8, and conclusion.

-Elaine Hadley, Living Liberalism (Chicago, 2010), Introduction, chapter 1.

-Jon Lawrence, "Paternalism, Class, and the British Path to Modernity," in The Peculiarities of Liberal Modernity in Imperial Britain, edited by Simon Gunn and James Vernon (Berkeley, 2011), 147-164.

9. November 1 Liberalism: Practices of Government

*Chris Otter, The Victorian Eye (Chicago, 2008), 1-172, 253-263.

-Oliver MacDonagh, "The Nineteenth-Century Revolution in Government: A Reappraisal," Historical Journal 1:1 (1958).

-Mary Poovey, Making a Social Body (Chicago, 1995), 1-24, 55-72, 98-114.

-Tom Crook, "Sanitary Inspection and the Public Sphere in -Late Victorian and Edwardian Britain: A Case Study in Liberal Governance," 32:4 (2007), 369-393.

10. November 8 Imperial and Metropolitan Cultures

*Catherine Hall, Civilizing Subjects (Chicago, 2002).

11. November 15 Urban Modernities

*Walkowitz, City of Dreadful Delights (Chicago, 1992), 1-134, 191-245.

-Seth Koven, Slumming (Princeton, 2006), 1-87.

-Lynda Nead, "From Alleys to Courts: Obscenity and the mapping of mid-Victorian London," New Formations, special issue on sexual geographies, no. 37 (1999), 33-46.

12. November 22 War and British Society

*Nicoletta Gullace, The Blood of our Sons (New York, 2003).

-Sonya Rose, Which People's War? (Cambridge, 2003), 1-106, 285-293.

13. November 29 Gender and Interwar Political Culture

*Judy Giles, The Parlour and the Suburb (Oxford, 2004).

-Allison Light, Forever England (Routledge, 1994), Introduction and chapter 2.

-Ross McKibbin, "Class and Conventional Wisdom," in his Ideologies of Class (Oxford, 1990).

-Susan Kent, "The Politics of Sexual Difference: World War I and the Demise of British Feminism," Journal of British Studies 27:3 (1988): 232-253.

14. December 6 State and Society in the 20th century

*Susan Pedersen, Family, Dependence, and the Origins of the Welfare State, 1-177, 289-355.

-Steven Fielding, Peter Thompson, and Nick Tiratsoo, England Arise! (Manchester, 1995), introduction and chapter 3.

-James Vernon, "The Ethics of Hunger and the Assembly of Society: The Techno-Politics of the School Meal in Modern Britain," American Historical Review 110:3 (2005).

15. December 13 Race and Nation in Post-Imperial Britain

*Wendy Webster, Englishness and Empire.

-Chris Waters, "Dark Strangers in Our Midst: Discourses on Race and Nation in Britain, 1947-1963" Journal of British Studies 36:2 (1997).

-Bill Schwartz, "Reveries of Race: The Closing of the Imperial Moment," in Moments of Modernity, edited by Becky Conekin, Frank Mort, and Chris Waters (London, 1999), 189-207.