



University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Department of History

Society & Culture in Modern Britain (HISTORY 352)

Professor J. Jaffe Spring 2005

Contact Information:

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Goal: The purpose of this course is to survey of the most important social, economic and political developments in the United Kingdom since the late eighteenth century. The course is designed to cover several prominent issues in modern British history including the rise of industrial society, Victorian ideas and attitudes, British feminism, the rise and fall of the British Empire, the Labour Party and British socialism, the impact of the two world wars, and postwar political and social changes. Please note that many of the readings will be available only on reserve in the Library, either electronically or in hard copy.

Texts: The following textbooks will be available this semester and can be picked up at Textbook Rental. Note: They will be valuable for reference purposes and helpful for papers or exams. There will not be extensive assignments in them, however.

• W. Arnstein & W. Willcox, *The Age of Aristocracy: 1688-1830*, 7th ed. (Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath, 1995)

• W.L. Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today*, 7th ed. (Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath, 1995)

Additional Readings: In addition, all students should purchase the following books at the campus bookstore. They also will be required for the course:

- Charles Dickens, *Hard Times* (Penguin)
- Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (Penguin)

- Ross McKibbin, *Classes and Culture: England, 1918-1951* (Oxford University Press, 2000)
- Anthony Seldon and Daniel Collings, *Britain under Thatcher* (Longman, 2000)



Assignments: All students must prepare the following assignments for the dates indicated below and be prepared for class discussions and/or quizzes. Please note that there is a heavy reading load for this class and that much of the material will be available only on reserve at the Library or on the class website.

WEEK ONE (January 18-20) L. Colley, *Britons*, pp. 195-236. Electronic Reserve link: <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/7193826.pdf> .

WEEK TWO (January 25-27)

- E.P. Thompson, “Exploitation,” Chapter 6 of *The Making of the English Working Class*. Electronic Reserve link: <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/7190924.pdf>
- T.S. Ashton, “The Standard of Life of the Workers in England, 1790-1830,” (Chapter 4 in F.A. Hayek, ed. *Capitalism and the Historians*). Electronic Reserve link: <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/7190703.pdf> .

WEEK THREE (February 1-3) Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*, all.

WEEK FOUR: FIRST ESSAY DUE. Tentative due date: February 8.

WEEK FOUR (February 8-10)

- Selections from Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor* (1851-2).
- Selections from James Greenwood, *The Seven Curses of London* (1869).

Both selections available as .pdf files on class website.

WEEK FIVE (February 15-17)

- John Stuart Mill, ‘Socialism and Liberty.’ Electronic Reserve link: <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/7654270.pdf>
- George Bernard Shaw, ‘Socialism and Liberty.’ Electronic Reserve link: <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/7654262.pdf>
- William Morris, ‘Art and Socialism.’ See .pdf file on class website.

WEEK SIX (February 22-24) Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, all.

WEEK SEVEN (March 1-3) Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory*, Chapters 1 and 2. Electronic Reserve link: <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/7440998.pdf> and <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/7440963.pdf>.

WEEK SEVEN: SECOND ESSAY DUE. Tentative due date: March 1.

WEEK EIGHT (March 8-10) Ross McKibbin, *Classes and Culture*, Chapters IV and V.

WEEK NINE (March 15-17)

- Selections from George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937).
- Selections from Ellen Wilkinson, *The Town That Was Murdered* (1939).

Both selections available as .pdf files on class website.

SPRING BREAK (March 21-25)

WEEK TEN (March 29-31)

- Angus Calder, *The Myth of the Blitz*, Chapters 2 and 5 Electronic Reserve link: <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/7429501a.pdf>
- 'Introduction', Harold L. Smith, ed., *Britain in the Second World War: A Social History*, Electronic Reserve link: <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/7522641.pdf>.

WEEK ELEVEN (April 5-7) McKibbin, *Classes and Cultures*, Chapters VII and IX.

WEEK TWELVE (April 12-14) Meredith Veldman, *Fantasy, the Bomb, and the Greening of Britain*, Chapters 1 and 4. Electronic Reserve link: <http://library.uww.edu/ersearch/er/8046037.pdf>.

WEEK TWELVE: THIRD SHORT ESSAY DUE. Tentative due date: April 12.

WEEK THIRTEEN (April 19-21) Seldon and Collings, *Britain under Thatcher*, all.

WEEK FOURTEEN (April 26-28) Selections from Chapter Six of the McPherson Report available online at <http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm42/4262/sli-06.htm>.

See also selection of articles and documents at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lawrence/> .

WEEK FIFTEEN May 3 Study Day.
 May 5 Final Exam.

WEEK SIXTEEN (May 9-13) Final Class Meeting: 10:00 AM, Thursday, May 12.

Course Outline: The topics listed below, while not definitive, are meant to give you an overview of the scope and content of this course.

- I. Introduction to British Social and Political Institutions
- II. War, Revolution and the Origins of Modern Political Ideologies, 1789-1820
- III. The Social and Economic Impact of the Industrial Revolution
- IV. The Middle Class and Middle-Class Ideas in the Victorian Period
- V. Chartism, Corn Laws and Ireland, 1830-1850
- VI. The British Empire, 1815-1846
- VII. Disraeli, Gladstone and Victorian Preeminence
- VIII. Gender, Sex and Society in the Late Victorian Period
- IX. Social and Political Crises in Pre-war Britain: Suffrage, Labour and Reform
- X. The Great War and British Society
- XI. Interwar Britain: Labour and the Great Strike of 1926
- XII. Britain in World War II
- XIII. Postwar Reconstruction and the Rise of the Welfare State
- XIV. Margaret Thatcher and the 'New' Conservatism
- XV. Race and Racism in Contemporary Britain

Requirements:

- All students are required to attend class and will be subject to several short quizzes on the reading material over the course of the semester. Preparation of the reading assignment is especially important since 5 per cent of your final grade is based upon class participation, comprehension of the reading material, and acuity of observation of the reading material. Regular attendance, of course, is a prerequisite of class participation.
- All students must satisfactorily complete four (4) assignments. The first two papers, both 5-7 pages, will be on topics assigned in class and related to the reading material. The third assignment will be a 3-5 paged essay analyzing a particular historical document to be made available during the semester. A final essay examination will be taken in class covering the principal themes, event, and personalities of the semester's work. The first two papers are worth approximately 25 per cent of your grade, the short essay is worth 15 per cent, and the final exam is worth 30 per cent. 5 per cent of your grade will be based on class participation, attendance, etc. (see above). Writing requirements and expectations for all work done in this class will be discussed or distributed beforehand.
- Additional or revised assignments may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.
- There are no make-ups for quizzes. All papers will be due in class on the date assigned. Papers will *not* be accepted via the internet, in emails, or as email attachments. Unexcused late papers or other assignments will be reduced by one full grade for each class period missed. Valid excuses include a written doctor's excuse. Other excuses are not accepted except upon the discretion of the instructor.
- All work submitted must be that of the individual student. All other work, unless properly annotated or referenced, constitutes plagiarism and will be referred to the proper university officials for appropriate action.

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The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events. (For details please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate Timetables; the "Rights and Responsibilities" section of the Undergraduate Bulletin; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Bulletin; and the "Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures" [UWS Chapter 14]; and the "Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures" [UWS Chapter 17]).