SYLLABUS

History of England Since 1688
History 264
Spring 2000
Rhodes College

Professor Lynn Zastoupil
Office: Clough 307
Office hours: T, Th, F 10:00-11:00 (and by appointment)
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to some of the major historical developments of modern Britain. Attention will be focused not so much on individuals or a chronological narrative of events, as on major issues, trends, events and crises of this period. Topics to be covered include: eighteenth century society and religion; corruption and reform in eighteenth century politics; origins of industrialism; impact of French revolution; reform legislation and movements of the nineteenth century; social and economic consequences of industrialism; radical movements in late nineteenth century; imperialism and British politics; the Irish question; impact of world wars one and two; Britain's decline; origins and nature of the welfare state; and British society and politics since 1945. These and other topics will be covered by a combination of lectures, readings, and discussions. It is intended that students will leave this course with a firm grasp of many of the leading developments in modern British history.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be expected to attend lectures regularly, do assigned readings on time, and participate in class discussions. Many class sessions will have some assigned readings, which will complement the lectures, and students must be prepared to discuss these readings. Occasionally an entire class session will be devoted to discussion of assigned readings. It is essential that students participate fully in the class discussions in order best to understand the complexities of the issues at hand. Students who find it difficult to speak up in class are urged to keep a journal of the readings which will help improve their grade for class participation. There will be two examinations which will be largely essay in nature. Students must also write a research paper on some topic, chosen in consultation with the professor. It is expected that students will work on this paper for the entire semester, and that the finished product will demonstrate a solid grasp of the issues and events relevant to the paper topic. The research paper must be submitted by class time on the date due; all late papers will be automatically reduced by one letter grade. Final grades will be determined as follows: class participation/journal - 25%; mid-term examination - 25%; research paper - 25%; final examination - 25%.

BOOKS TO PURCHASE

Martin Gilbert, Atlas of British History
Roy Porter, English Society in the Eighteenth Century
Jane Austin, Pride and Prejudice
Charles Dickens, Hard Times
Peter Stansky, Gladstone
George Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier
Martin Wiener, English Culture and the Decline of the Industrial Spirit 1850-1980

COURSE OUTLINE
Week I: Introduction
January 12 Introduction
January 14 Seventeenth century background

Week II: Glorious Revolution and Eighteenth Century Society
January 17 No class (M. L. King, Jr. holiday)
January 19 The Glorious Revolution (Blakely, pp. 1-11; Gilbert, 63-65)
January 21 Social relations (Porter, Chpt. 1-2; Blakely, pp. 39-41)

Week III: Eighteenth-Century Religion and Politics
January 24 Religion (Porter, Chpt. 4; Blakely, pp. 14-17, 20-23)
January 26 Struggle for empire (Blakely, pp. 17-19, 76-78; Gilbert, 50-52, 55, 60, 68-72)
January 28 Politics of corruption (Gilbert, 66-67)

Week IV: Intellectuals and Reform
January 31 Parties and Kings (Porter, Chpt. 3 [pp. 113-37 (98-121)]; EHD handout)
February 2 Enlightenment ideas (Blakely, pp. 59-66)
February 4 Popular culture and politics (Porter, Chpt. 6; Blakely, pp. 28-34, 46-49)

Week V: Reform and Origins of Industrialism
February 7 American Rebellion and reform movement (Blakely, pp. 50-52, 57-59; Gilbert, 73)
February 9 Origins of industrialism (Porter, Chpt. 5; Gilbert, 74-76)
February 11 Social and political consequences (Porter, Chpt. 8; Blakely, pp. 53-55, 67-75, 93-95)

Week VI: Jane Austin and the French Revolution
February 14 Pride and Prejudice (Austin, all)
February 16 French Revolution: narrative of events (Gilbert, 78-83)
February 18 Reformers, revolutionaries and reactionaries (Blakely, pp. 82-86, 98-99)
Week VII: Revival of Reform
February 21  Post-war radicalism (Gilbert, 84)
February 23  1832 (Blakely, pp. 100-106, Gilbert, 85)
February 25  MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Week VIII: 1830s and 1840s: The Condition of England
February 28  1830s and Chartism (Blakely, pp. 107-114, 118-21; Gilbert, 88, 90)
March 1  Peel
March 3  Hard Times (Dickens, all)

SPRING BREAK MARCH 6-10

Week IX: Mid-Victorian Repose and Reform
March 13  Age of Equipoise and Reform (Blakely, pp. 122-45, 152-59)
March 15  Disraeli (Blakely, pp. 160-70)
March 17  Gladstone (Stansky, all)

Week X: Forces for Change
March 20  Labor and the second industrial revolution (Blakely, pp. 178-84; Gilbert, 88, 97)
March 22  Empire (Blakely, pp. 185-86; Gilbert, 91-96)
March 24  Origins of Feminism

Week XI: The crises of Edwardian Britain
March 27  Edwardian political crisis (Blakely, pp. 195-99)
March 29  Feminism (Lansbury, Chpt. 1, 4-7; Blakely, pp. 199-203)
March 31  Ireland (Gilbert, 86-87, 98)

Week XII: The Great War
April 3  Political Crisis (Gilbert, 98-101)
April 5  Intellectual aftermath (Blakely, pp. 203-208)
April 7  War and social change

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE APRIL 7

Week XIII: Aftermath of War
April 10  Great Depression (Blakely, pp. 212-15, 219-21; Gilbert, 102)
April 12  Political life (Blakely, pp. 209-211, 216-18, 231-32)
April 14  Orwell's view (Orwell, all)

Week XIV: World War Two
April 17  War and politics (Blakely, pp. 237-46; Gilbert, 106-111)
April 19  War and social change (Blakely, pp. 247-50)
April 20  Easter recess

Week XV: Post-War Britain
April 24  Welfare state (Blakely, pp. 251-54; Gilbert, 104-105)
April 26  Conservative revival/Britain today (Blakely, pp. 255-83; Gilbert, 113, 115-17, 120, 122-27, 129-30, 137, 140, 143-44)
April 28  Britain’s decline (Wiener, all)