

MODERN BRITAIN

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 Office Hours: Tuesday 10-12; Wednesday 3-4:30 and other times by appointment

In this class we will look at the history of Great Britain from roughly 1750 to the present. We will begin around 1750 because that is a date shortly before the beginning of a series of profound social and political events that would fundamentally transform the nature of British society. Obviously, there is no way that we can take a comprehensive look at everything that has happened in even so small a country as Great Britain over that length of time and so we will have to be selective. Although we will be looking at a wide range of issues, they are all held together, at least loosely, by a single theme: the creation and continual redefinition of the idea of a British national community.

BOOK LIST

The best textbook on the history of modern England is R. K. Webb, *Modern England* (note that Webb deals primarily with England, but, in fact, includes material on other parts of Britain as well). There will not be assigned reading in Webb; its greatest usefulness is as a reference book, especially since of necessity we will have to skim over some topics very quickly in class and skip others entirely. There are several copies of Webb in the library.

Required Books

Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation*
 Deborah Valenze, *The First Industrial Woman*
 Anthony Trollope, *The Warden*
 Judith Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight*
 Robert Roberts, *The Classic Slum*
 Alan Sillitoe, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*
 Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, *Imagining the New Britain*

There will be additional reading of essays, articles and ephemera, and we will also look at a number of pictures, films, and videos and listen to music and recordings of the spoken word

BUREAUCRATIC EXPECTATIONS

We will meet three times per week for lecture and discussion. Attendance is expected. It is also expected (and assumed) that the reading, which may be considerable, will be done on time. As a general rule of thumb, around ½ to ¾ of the reading should be done by the Monday of the week in which it is due, and the rest by the Wednesday. Falling behind is not the best way to go.

Each student will write a series of three papers (each in the 7-9 pp. range). The papers are due on

February 21, March 29, and May 3. Late papers will be penalized. In addition, every Monday, starting February 4, *each student* will turn in on a 3x5 index card, at least one discussion question based on the reading of the week. All of the written work must be completed in order to pass the course.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, learning, and psychological disabilities. Please contact the Disability Services Office located at Macalester Health Services, 696-6275, to discuss accessing accommodations.

IN NO CASE OTHER THAN A REAL EMERGENCY WILL AN INCOMPLETE BE GRANTED IN THIS COURSE.

SYLLABUS

The first valuable historical lesson of this course is that this schedule, like all other things in the world, is subject to violent and unexpected change

<u>WEEK OF</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>READING</u>
January 28	Introduction: 18 th C Britain	Colley, pp 1-193
February 4	Introduction: 18 th C Britain	Colley, pp 194-end
<i>The assignments in Colley are approximate. I would like you to have read the whole book during the first two weeks, and I have split the pages roughly in half. I understand, however, that a lot of reading gets done on weekends and there is no weekend before the first week of class. Please start reading Colley right away and do as much as you can for the first week.</i>		
February 11	18 th and 19 th C Transformations	Valenze

WEEK OF**SUBJECT****READING**

February 18

Political Reform
Redefining the NationChosen From: E.P. Thompson,
"Members Unlimited"
William Hone, *The Political House
that Jack Built*
Norman Gash, "The Principles of
the Reform Act"
Patrick Joyce, "The Constitution
and the Narrative Structure
of Victorian Politics"
Keith McClelland, " 'England's
Greatness, The Working Man' "
Anna Clark, "Gender, Class, and
the Nation: Franchise Reform
in England, 1832-1928"
Jon Lawrence, "The
Transformation of British Public
Politics After the First World War"**First paper due, February 25**

February 25

Victorian Society I

Trollope

March 3

Victorian Society II

Walkowitz

March 10

The Margins of
Community: Ireland
And Empire

TBA

SPRING BREAK, MARCH 14-23

March 24

Edwardian twilight

Roberts

Second paper due, March 31

March 31

The 1930s

TBA

April 7	The 1950s	Sillitoe
April 14	The 80s and 90s: Margaret Thatcher and Princess Diana	TBA
April 21	Imagining a new Britain	Alibhai-Brown
April 28	Britain through the media	TBA

May 5 **Last Day of Class**

Third paper due May 5