

MODERN BRITAIN (HIS 332-90)

Professor : Dr. Robinson-Dunn

Class meets Tuesdays 6:35-9:05 p.m. in B348

Office- Briggs 326, 993-1107 (a message may be left with the secretary in the Liberal Arts office outside of office hours, but do not abuse this privilege, 993-1287)

Office Hours-11:10-11:25a.m. and 1:45-2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:05-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and by appointment

Course description – this class covers the history of Britain through the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries with an emphasis on identity formation, the nation, the evolution of modern society and political systems, and the place of England within a British imperial, global network. Students should have an understanding of and be able to think critically and analytically about the material. Also, they should be able to work with primary sources and communicate their ideas effectively through the spoken and written word.

The grade for this course will be based on class participation (25%), the mid-term (20%), the final exam (30%) and two papers (10%) and (15%). In order to pass this class, you must take both exams and submit both papers.

The required readings are listed below and should be completed by the indicated date. Please be advised that there will be no deadline extensions for the papers and no make-up exams except in cases of serious illness verified by a doctor's note. Your papers should be free of structural and grammatical errors. You should also have a clear introduction, thesis and conclusion. If you have any doubts about your writing skills, see the writing center before you submit your paper.

The class participation grade is *not* a warm body grade. In other words you do not get credit simply for being here. You must demonstrate that you have read and understand the material as well as contribute to classroom discussions. Also, you will have periodic, unannounced in-class writing assignments usually lasting for about 15-20 minutes. These will be based on the readings from the course packet, the lectures, and the films. They will help you to practice organizing and effectively communicating your ideas on paper, which will help you on the exams. They will be considered part of your class participation grade. General attitude and demeanor count as well. Excessive absences and chronic lateness to and early departure from class will not be tolerated.

Students with disabilities must see me during the first week of class in order to make any special arrangements that might be necessary.

Required Texts:

History of England eds. Roberts and Douglas Bisson, 3rd ed., vol. II (1991)

John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989).

Course Packet – available for purchase in the liberal arts office on the first floor of Briggs

Note: Some weeks you will be responsible for more reading material than others. Review the assignments well in advance and plan your schedule accordingly.

Sept.

3- Introduction to the course and English political traditions: the state, society and the rights of Englishmen: liberty, property and protest
Roberts chapters 16 and 17

10-English political traditions continued/ the first British Empire: the Celtic fringe, British Colonial America, the West Indies,
and India

CP: #1 -*The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano written by himself*

Roberts chapter 21

17- the Enlightenment and evangelism

CP: John Locke - #3 and Mary Wollstonecraft - #2, Roberts chapters 18 and 19

24- social structures, war and French rivalry
John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*

Oct.

1- the Industrial Revolution and the emergence of a viable class society/brief discussion of mid-term exam

CP: "Evidence given before the Sadler Committee, 1831-1832" - #4 and Martha Vicinus, "The Study of Nineteenth-Century British Working-Class Poetry" - #5
Roberts chapter 23

8- Individual meetings with students to discuss the paper and answer last-minute questions about the mid-term exam

15- Mid- Term Exam

22- the rise of a respectable Society – "Victorian values"

CP: John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism" - #6 and Tennyson, "Locksley Hall" - #7
Roberts chapters 22 and 24

29-film *Tess of the D'urbervilles*

CP: Gertrude Himmelfarb, from *Marriage and Morals* - #8
Roberts chapter 26

First Paper Due

Nov.

5-imperialism, government and politics in the 19th Century

CP: Richard Burton, *The Pilgrimage to Al-Medinah and Meccah* - #9
Roberts chapter 25

12-WWI, WWII and the welfare state

CP: Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth* - #10
Roberts chapters 27-29

19- Suez, decolonization and Northern Ireland

CP: Hanif Kureishi, *My Beautiful Laundrette* - #11

26-Modern Britain: politics, culture and change

England in the 50s, 60s and 70s – society, culture and change

CP: Tom Nairn, "The English Enigma" - #12 and : Margaret Thatcher, *The Downing Street Years* - #13
Roberts chapter 30 and 31

Dec.

3 – review for final

Second Paper Due

10 – week of final exams