History 247: The Making of Modern Britain, 1688-1867
College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
Fall 2016, CAS 226
MWF 10-11am

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Course Description:
In this lecture course, we will examine Britain’s emergence as the global power in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. How did this small island nation come to epitomize the “modern” and amass an impressive (and rapidly expanding) empire? We will answer this question by charting Britain’s ascendancy from 1688-1867, with an emphasis on the nation’s political formation, military and industrial achievements, political philosophies (most notably liberalism), cultural and intellectual contributions, and imperial conquests. Particular consideration will be given to the tensions and contradictions that lay at the heart of Britain during this “ascendant” period (e.g. the often strained relations between Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England and the meaning of “Britishness,” industrialization and the ‘condition of England’, the rights of workers and women, the problem of slavery and the burdens of empire).

Emphasis throughout will be on close reading of primary and secondary sources, as well as on careful analysis of visual images and historical films. Assignments will include brief weekly written responses, an analytical essay (5-7 pages), a mid-term and a final exam.

Course Texts (required):
• Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative and other Writings* (Penguin 2003)
• Amanda Foreman, *Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire* (Penguin 2001)
• Thomas Heyck, *The People of the British Isles from 1688-1870, 4th* edition (Lyceum 2014)

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard Learn and the web, as specified in the syllabus.
Course Requirements:

• **Attendance.** Course attendance is required. (See the next page for specifics regarding attendance policy.)

• **Class Participation.** Although this is a lecture course, we will devote significant class time to discussion of the assigned reading. It is essential that you come to class on designated discussion days ready to talk about the required readings and other relevant course materials. To help prepare you for these discussions, I will be requiring you to post comments on a discussion board located on Blackboard Learn. On the weeks indicated, you must post at least one *substantive* comment in response to the week’s readings. Your comments must be posted prior to the discussion meeting (usually Fridays, but occasionally on other days). I will read these comments carefully, and the successful completion of these responses will factor into your class participation grade.

• **Writing Assignments.** In this course, you will be assigned an essay, 5-7 pp. in length, designed to help you develop your critical thinking and writing skills. I will be available to read drafts, provided they are submitted to me well in advance of the due date.

Grading Breakdown:
Class participation, weekly discussion board participation, and attendance: 20%
Paper (5-7 pages): 25%
Mid-Term Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 30%

Major Deadlines:
Mid-Term: Friday, October 28
Paper: Monday, November 21
Final Exam: Date TBA

Late Assignments:
Please contact me well in advance of an assignment’s due date if you think that you will have difficulty meeting a particular deadline. *All papers submitted late without my permission will automatically be marked down one half-grade per day.*

Attendance Policy:
Class attendance is required. Please notify me in advance (if possible) if you know that you will need to be absent from class. *After two unexcused absences, I will begin deducting 1/3 of a letter grade off your final grade for every missed class.*

Plagiarism Policy:
This course is designed to encourage critical thinking and writing. In order to become critical thinkers and writers, you must complete all stages of your work yourself: taking the words of others, or presenting the ideas of others as your own not only prohibits you from learning, but also violates the CAS Academic Conduct Code. This Code applies to all classroom assignments, from the weekly discussion board postings to your final exams. *The minimum penalty for such offenses is to fail the assignment; the more common penalty is to fail the course.* Please contact me if you have any questions about plagiarism. We will review proper citation techniques throughout the semester.

Disability:
If you are a student requiring accommodations for a disability, please let me know as soon as possible. The Office of Disability Services can assist you and may be contacted at 353-3658.

Course Schedule:

WEEK ONE: Introductory
9/7: The Making of Modern Britain I
9/9: The Making of Modern Britain II
Reading due:
   • Heyck, Chapter 1

WEEK TWO: The Glorious Revolution: How Revolutionary?
9/12: Glorious Revolution I: A Model Revolution?
9/14: Glorious Revolution II: Political, Economic, Religious, and Cultural Legacies
9/16: Discussion
Reading due:
   • Heyck, Chapter 2 and 4
   • Locke, excerpt from *Second Treatise on Government* [available on Blackboard]
   • Locke, excerpt from “A Letter Concerning Toleration” [available on Blackboard – see “Enlightenment Documents,” week 4]
   • excerpt from *The Bill of Rights* (1689) [available on Blackboard]

WEEK THREE: 18th-Century Empire and the Idea of Britishness*
9/19: Expansion Within and Without
9/21: Slavery and Sugar
9/23: Discussion
Reading due:
   • Linda Colley, “Britishness and Otherness” [available on Blackboard]
   • Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* (Editor’s Introduction, Front Matter, and Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-76)

* Discussion Board posting required

WEEK FOUR: Enlightenment and Its Others**
9/26: Enlightened Theories, Enlightened Practices
9/28: Enlightenment’s Others
9/30: Discussion
Reading due:
   • Heyck, Chapter 5
   • Roy Porter, “The Birth of an Ideology,” in *The Creation of the Modern World* [available on Blackboard]
   • John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* *
   • Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason* *
   • David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* *
   • Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* *
   • Jeremy Bentham, *The Principle of Utility* *
   • John Howard, *The State of Prisons* *
• David Hume, "Negroes...naturally inferior to the whites...”*
• Catharine Macaulay, Women’s Education*

* All of these Enlightenment documents are available on Blackboard under “Enlightenment documents”
** Discussion Board posting required

WEEK FIVE: The American Revolution and the End of Empire?*
10/3: The Colonial Dilemma
10/5: Empire of the Free: The Anti-Slavery Movement and the New Imperialism
10/7: Discussion
Reading due:
• Heyck, Chapter 8
• Ogborn, Global Lives, Chapters 8 and 10, pp. 197-229, 261-294
• Edmund Burke, “Conciliation with America” [on Blackboard]
• Josiah Tucker, “The True Interest of Great Britain,” [on Blackboard]
• Thomas Paine, excerpt from Common Sense [available at http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/paine-common.html]

* Discussion Board posting required

WEEK SIX: The New Moral Empire
10/10: No Class – Columbus Day
10/11 [Monday schedule]: Abolitionism, continued (with an in-class debate)
10/14: Ireland and India
Reading due:
• Begin reading Amanda Foreman, Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire (intro, pp. 3-159, and epilogue) – to be discussed on 17 October in class

WEEK SEVEN: Class and Gender in Georgian Britain
10/17: The Duchess of Devonshire’s World: Class and Gender in Georgian Britain/ Discussion of Georgiana
10/19: The French Revolution and British Culture I
10/21: The French Revolution and British Culture II
Reading due (for Oct 17):
• Amanda Foreman, Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire (intro, pp. 3-159 and epilogue)

WEEK EIGHT: The French Revolution and British Culture
10/24: French Revolution discussion
10/26: Discussion, continued and Mid-Term Review
10/28: Mid-Term Exam
Reading due (for Oct 24):
• Heyck, Chapter 11
• French Revolution Controversy documents [on Blackboard]
• Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789) [available at http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp]
• Reread the excerpt from the 1689 Bill of Rights [on Blackboard, assigned 2nd week of class]

WEEK NINE: Industrialization and its Discontents*
10/31: Why Britain?
11/2: Impact
11/4: Discussion
Reading due:
• Heyck, Chapters 10 and 12
• E.P. Thompson, “Time, Work-Discipline and Industrial Capitalism” [available on Blackboard]
• Industrial Revolution documents [on Blackboard]
• Begin reading Charles Dickens, Hard Times

* Discussion Board posting required

WEEK TEN: The Project of Reform
11/7: The Age of Reform
11/9: Charles Dickens’ World/ Discussion of Hard Times
11/11: No Class
Reading due (for November 9):
• Heyck, Chapters 13 and 14
• Dickens, Hard Times

WEEK ELEVEN: Victorianism and its Contradictions
11/14: Inventing the Victorians I
11/16: Inventing the Victorians II
11/18: Discussion/Writing Workshop
Reading Due:
• Heyck, Chapter 16
• Jeffrey Auerbach, excerpt from The Great Exhibition of 1851 [available on Blackboard]

WEEK TWELVE: Representing Britain
*11/21: Class trip to the Museum of Fine Arts—details TBA
Paper due on November 21: must be placed in my box in the History Department (3rd floor, 226 Bay State Road) no later than 5pm*
11/23: No Class – Thanksgiving Break
11/25: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

WEEK THIRTEEN: The Darwinian Moment*
11/28: Darwinism
11/30: Social Darwinism
12/2: Discussion
Reading due:
• Samuel Wilberforce, Darwin’s Faults [on Blackboard]
• Thomas Henry Huxley, Darwin’s Virtues [on Blackboard]
• Herbert Spencer, Social Darwinism [at http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/spencer-darwin.html]
• Samuel Smiles, Self Help [at http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1882smiles.html]
*Discussion Board posting required

WEEK FOURTEEN: The Second Empire at Mid-Century*
12/5: Ireland, India, Jamaica
12/7: The Reform Act of 1867 and the New Victorian Nation
*Fingersmith at the American Repertory Theater (Cambridge), 7:30pm
12/9: Discussion
Reading due:
• Heyck, Chapters 15 and 17
• Thomas Metcalf, “Liberalism and Empire” in Ideologies of the Raj [available on Blackboard]

* Discussion Board posting required

WEEK FIFTEEN: A Golden Age?/ Final Exam Review
12/12: A Nation in its Prime or a Nation in Peril?/ Final Exam Review

Final Exam: Date TBA