



History 3364

CRN 22181

Britain since 1714

Credit Hours: 3

Spring 2020

ABIV 00302

TR 11-12:15pm

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Office Hours:

T 3:30-4:30pm

Thurs 10-11am

And by appt.

Course Description

In this course, we will trace the history of Britain as a modern imperial, democratic, and post-colonial nation from the eighteenth century to the present. We will focus on how events like war and revolution (both at home and abroad) transformed Britain, and how broader developments in political culture, economic integration, social transformation, and cultural transmission shaped the people and practices we understand as “British.” Topics to be covered include the rise of the fiscal-military state; early modern commerce and slavery; the “First” and “Second” British Empires; the Unions with Ireland and Scotland; the Industrial Revolution; class and gender politics; twentieth-century wars; social welfare and social democracy; decolonization and mass migration; and the “decline” of Britain as a world power.

The relationship between nation, identity, and Empire will be examined in primary source texts, non-textual artifacts, and scholarly articles, and one novel, Pat Barker’s *Regeneration*. We will also use a textbook, Stephanie Barczewski et al, *Britain since 1688: A Nation in the World* (Routledge, 2014) to structure the chronology and themes of the course (it is available for free as an ebook through NGL). As a writing enhanced (“W”) course, the majority of course assessment will be through composition. We will practice the tenets of analytical writing throughout the semester, culminating in a 1,500-2,000 word analytical essay.

The course is organized chronologically, with each week tackling a particular theme. For the most part, Tuesdays will be a lecture-heavy meeting (where you will be expected to have read the textbook chapter(s) and Thursday will be a discussion-heavy meeting (where you will be expected to have read and be prepared to discuss any additional reading).

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives

Historical Knowledge: To master a basic understanding of the themes and narratives of British history from the eighteenth century to the present

Connecting Past to Present: To reflect on how Britain's historic entanglements with other parts of the world affect contemporary politics

Critical Thinking: To practice evaluating primary sources and weighing different forms of historical evidence comparatively

Research Skills: To learn how to obtain, read, and analyze secondary sources and use them to support a historical arguments

Communication Skills: To propose and explain new ways of presenting Britain's past to an American audience

Required Readings

Stephanie Barczewski et al, *Britain since 1688: A Nation in the World* (Routledge, 2014)

[Available at NGL as a free e-book](#)

Pat Barker, *Regeneration* (Plume 2013) [Other editions are fine]

Various readings posted on blackboard

Attendance Policy

Classroom discussion and hands-on workshops in source analysis and historical writing will be a central part of this course. I therefore expect you to be in class regularly, on time, and having done the required reading for the day. Being present in class will help you succeed in the class, and will also comprise 35% of your course grade (see below). In addition, make sure you are checking your SHSU email regularly (at least twice a week) for updates from me.

Course Assignment and Grading

Classroom Participation	350 points
<i>Maximum of 25 points per week, 14 total weeks. Points for completing informal writing assignments in class, answering and asking questions during lecture and discussion, attending office hours.</i>	
Primary Source Contextualization	50 points
<i>250 words (Jan 30)</i>	
Map Quizzes	80 points
<i>One quiz on British Isles geography (Feb 6)</i> <i>One quiz on British Empire geography (Feb 27)</i>	
Take-Home Essay Exam	100 points
<i>500 words, essay questions distributed one week prior to due date (Feb 20)</i>	
Digital Humanities Site Assessment	70 points
<i>March 5, 350 words (March 5)</i>	
Regeneration Essay	150 points
<i>750-1,000 words (April 2)</i>	
Final Paper	200 points
<i>1,500-2,000 words (May 7)</i>	

Total: 1000 Points

900-1000 points	A
800-899 points	B
700-799 points	C
600-699 points	D
0-599 points	F

Late Work

Unless you have an emergency, I expect you to be in class to take the quizzes. The only assignment for which I will accept late work is the *Regeneration* essay. I will grant a 48-hour extension on a case-by-case basis. Please give me at least 48 hours notice if you anticipate needing an extension.

University Policies

Please refer to the University Policies around Academic Dishonesty, Religious Holy Days, Students with Disabilities Policy, and Visitors in the Classroom [here](#)

Classroom Conduct

Please put all phones away and on silent for the duration of our class meetings. In-class phone use will negatively affect your course engagement grade. If you are taking notes on a laptop, I ask that you sit in the two columns of desks closest to the door. Distracting or inappropriate laptop use will also negatively affect your course engagement grade.

Getting in Touch

I am here as a guide and a resource for the material in this course. My aim is to be as responsive as possible when you have questions or concerns: I will strive to return your email within 24 hrs. If it is sent on the weekends, I may take a little longer.

Course Schedule

*Barczewski chapter(s) due by **Tuesday** of each week. All other readings due by **Thursday** of each week*

Week 1 (Jan 16)

Syllabus

Week 2 (Jan 21 & 23)

The Structure of Great Britain and its Empire

Barczewski 2 & 4

Swift, A Modest Proposal (BB)

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/a-modest-proposal>

Week 3 (Jan 28 & **NO CLASS** Jan 30)

Demography and Culture: Who and what is “British”?

Due: Primary Source Contextualization

Week 4 (Feb 4 & 6)

The Ethics of Empire

Barczewski ch. 3

Legacies of British Slave Ownership (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/project/context/>)

Runaway Slaves in Britain (<https://www.runaways.gla.ac.uk/>)

Wilberforce, "An Appeal to the Religion, Justice, Humanity of the Inhabitants of the British Empire, in Behalf of the Negro Slaves in the West Indies"

In-Class: Quiz #1 (Feb 6)

Week 5 (Feb 11 & 13)

The Industrial Take-Off: Why Britain?

Readings

Barczewski ch. 5

Brown, "A Memoir of Robert Blincoe"

Engels, "Irish Immigration"

Week 6 (Feb 18 & 20)

Separate Spheres: Gender and Class in Victorian Society

Barczewski, ch. 6

Cannadine, "The Context, Performance and Meaning of Ritual: The British Monarchy and the 'Invention of Tradition,' c. 1820-1977"

Due: Take-home midterm (Feb 20)

Week 7 (Feb 25 & 27)

Victorian Empire

Feb 25: Library Visit - Meeting point TBD

Before visit, read Anderson, "Transnational Histories of Penal Transportation: Punishment, Labour, and Governance in the British Imperial World"

Barczewski ch. 7

Seacole, ch. 1 and VIII

Due: Quiz #2 (Feb 27)

Week 8 (March 3 & 5)

Mass Politics and The Social Question

Barczewski, ch. 8

Pankhurst, "Why We Are Militant"

Baden Powell, *Scouting for Boys*

Due: Digital Humanities Site Assessment (March 5)

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10 (March 17 & 19)

First World War

Barczewski, ch. 9

Regeneration

Week 11 (March 24 & 26)

Interwar Internationalism

Barczewski, ch. 10

Overseas Settlement Committee, "Empire Migration"

Pugh, "The British Union of Fascists and the Olympia Debate"

Hewlett (ed), "Facts About Communism and Fascism" <https://mrc-catalogue.warwick.ac.uk/records/MSH/2/55/1>

Week 12 (March 31 & April 2)

Poverty and Plenty in Interwar Britain

Orwell, *Road to Wigan Pier*

Due: Regeneration Essay (April 2)

Week 13 (April 7 & 9)

Second World War

Barczewski, ch. 11

Bomb Sight <http://bombsight.org/>

Week 14 (April 14 & 16)

Social Democracy and Decolonization

Barczewski, ch. 12 & 13

Younge, "Stevenage"

Bailkin, "The Postcolonial Family?"

Week 15 (April 21 & 23)

Thatcher and New Labour

Barczewski, ch. 14 & 15

Thatcher, Speech to the Bow Group

Blair, Belfast Speech

Week 16 (April 28 & 30)

Brexit

2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony (first 90 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4As0e4de-rI>