

History 5389
CRN 84621
Great Britain and the British Empire
Credit Hours: 3
Fall 2022



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Office Hours

Wednesday: 12-1pm over Zoom

Thursdays: 5:30-6:30pm over Zoom

And by appt over Zoom

Course Description

This course covers major debates and developments in the history of Britain and its empire from the seventeenth century to the present. This course is structured around eight thematic units that focus on nation, class, gender, race, and their intersections. The final writing assignment is a historiographical essay that examines the scholarly intersections of at least two of these themes.

Prerequisite: Admission to the M.A. in History or departmental approval.

Course Objectives

Disciplinary Literacy: Become familiar with the content and importance of eight books in modern British and British imperial history, along with how scholarship around the nation, class, gender, and race has developed in British historiography

Communication Skills: Practice synthesizing and condensing large bodies of literature into key, clear, takeaway points

Evaluative Historical Thinking: Learn to compare and contrast scholarship across methodological,

theoretical, geographic, and temporal divides, and explain why their similarities and divides matter

Analytical Writing Skills: Compose individual and collective historiographical assessments of books and articles of your choosing

Personal and Social Responsibility: Meet and collaborate with classmates to produce historiographical “cheat sheets” for your classmates

Required Books

If you do not have college-level coursework in modern British history, I would suggest two textbooks that provide good background on our material. Stephanie Barczewski et al, *Britain since 1688: A Nation in the World* is the book I use for my undergraduate survey course. It is [available as an ebook](#) through the SHSU library. James Vernon, *Modern Britain: 1750 to the Present* (Cambridge, 2017) is another useful, argument-driven overview of our time period and topics.

Books are listed in the order they will be discussed.

Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837* [[NGL ebook](#)]

Hall and Rose, *At Home with the Empire: Metropolitan Culture and the Imperial World* [[NGL ebook](#)]

Perry, *London is the Place for Me: Black Britons, Citizenship, and the Politics of Race* [[NGL ebook](#)]

Griffin, *Liberty's Dawn: A People's History of the Industrial Revolution* [[NGL ebook](#)]

Clark, *Struggle for the Breeches: Gender and the Making of the English Working Class* [[NGL ebook](#)]

Marcus, *Between Women: Friendship, Marriage, and Desire in Victorian England* [[NGL ebook](#)]

Kushner, *We Europeans? Mass-Observation, Race, and British Identity* [[NGL ebook](#)]

Carby, *Imperial Intimacies: A Tale of Two Islands* [must purchase]

Attendance Policy

Although we will not meet face-to-face as a group, peer engagement and regular check-ins with the instructor are key for success in this course. You will be expected to contribute to 10 of the 13 discussion board forums. You will be expected to communicate with your group in the lead up to submitting your critical synthesis for your designated articles week. In addition, make sure you are checking your SHSU email regularly (at least twice a week) for updates from me.

Course Assessments and Grading

This class is organized around eight units. Discussion forum questions will be released two or three week chunks so you can work at your own pace. The work week runs Monday to Sunday, with you initial contribution to the discussion board always due on a Thursday and your response to me or a peer due on Sunday. These discussion forums will largely deal with one book (varying due dates, worth 50 points each). These deep dive into a single monograph are meant to prepare you for the book review (due 10/23 and worth 150 points). In addition to the forums, you will also complete a “critical synthesis” group assignment once during the semester (varying due dates, worth 100 points). This will always focus on a selection of articles from which you will present key overarching historiographical themes and debates to the class as a whole. This is meant to to prepare you for the historiographical essay (due 12/1 and worth 250 points).

Discussion Board Posts <i>(Must participate on every “book” week + two other weeks of your choice, 50 points each)</i>	500 points
Articles Critical Synthesis <i>(Completed in a group, one over the course of the semester)</i>	100 points
Book Review <i>(due 10/3, 11:59pm)</i>	150 points
Historiographical Essay <i>(due 12/1, 11:59pm)</i>	250 points
Total possible points:	1000 points
900-1000 points	A
800-899 points	B
700-799 points	C
600-699 points	D
0-599 points	F

Late Work

Some deadlines in this course are firm. Discussion board posts your critical synthesis contributions must be submitted on time, as they are produced as a group. Completing these particular assignments promptly is a matter of academic community-building; your peers can't complete their work until you complete yours. Please plan your time accordingly so you can complete these on time. For the book review and historiographical essay, there is more leeway. Please get in touch with me *at least* 48 hours before the deadline if you will need an extension. All work must be turned in by December 6 at 11:59pm (the Tuesday before grades are due).

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

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the discussion board in the same manner they would in a face-to-face classroom: base your arguments in evidence from our readings, respond respectfully to differing interpretations, and build on conversations collaboratively. Any disruptive behavior in this forum will result in a zero for your discussion board grade for that week.

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 the business day. If it is sent on the weekends or after 6pm CST, I may take a little longer.

Unit Schedule (see master deadlines page for specific due dates and times)			
	Dates	Required Reading	Writing due
Unit 1: Key Terms, Key “Turns”	Week 1: 8/22-8/29 [book week]	Colley Cesarani	Discussion board posts
	Week 2: 8/30-9/5 [book week]	Hall and Rose [Introduction; ch. 13; and one other chapter of your choosing] Gorman	Discussion board posts
	Week 3 9/6-9/12 [book week]	Perry Hammerton Sasson et al	Discussion board posts
Unit 2: Class	Week 4: 9/13-9/19	Articles	Discussion board posts
	Week 5: 9/20-9/26 [book week]	Griffin	Discussion board posts
Unit 3: Class and Gender	Week 6: 9/27-10/3 [book week]	Clark	Discussion board posts Book Review
Unit 4: Gender	Week 7: 10/4-10/10	Articles	Discussion board posts
	Week 8: 10/11-10/17 [book week]	Marcus	Critical synthesis [from Group #1 (Alexandra, Joshua, and Christopher)] Discussion board posts
Unit 5: Gender and Race	Week 9: 10/18-10/24	Articles	Discussion board posts
Unit 6: Race	Week 10: 10/25-10/31	Articles	Discussion board posts
	Week 11: 11/1-11/7 [book week]	Kushner	Critical synthesis [from Group #2 (Kimber and Sean)] Discussion board posts

Unit 7: Race and Class	Week 12: 11/8-11/14	Articles	Discussion board posts
Unit 8: Intersections	Week 13: 11/15-11/21 [book week]	Carby	Critical synthesis [from Group #3 (Maggie and Jennifer)] Discussion board posts

Deadlines

Unit 1

- 8/26, 11:59pm: Initial Week 1 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 8/29, 11:59pm: Week 1 Discussion Board Response to a Peer or to Me (20 points)
- 9/2, 11:59pm: Initial Week 2 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 9/5, 11:59pm: Week 2 Discussion Board Response to a Peer or to Me (20 points)
- 9/9, 11:59pm: Initial Week 3 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 9/12, 11:59pm: Week 3 Discussion Board Response to a Peer or to Me (20 points)

Unit 2

- 9/16, 11:59pm: Initial Week 4 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 9/19, 11:59pm: Week 4 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)
- 9/23, 11:59pm: Initial Week 5 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 9/26, 11:59pm: Week 5 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)

Unit 3

- 9/30, 11:59pm: Initial Week 6 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 10/3, 11:59pm: Week 6 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)

10/3, 11:59pm: Book Review (150 points)

Unit 4

- 10/7, 11:59pm: Initial Week 7 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 10/10, 11:59pm: Week 7 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)
- 10/14, 11:59pm: Group 1 [**Alexandra, Joshua, and Christopher**] Critical Synthesis (100 points)
- 10/14, 11:59pm: Initial Week 8 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 10/17, 11:59pm: Week 8 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)

Unit 5

- 10/21, 11:59pm: Initial Week 9 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 10/24, 11:59pm: Week 9 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)

Unit 6

- 10/28, 11:59pm: Initial Week 10 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 10/31, 11:59pm: Week 10 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)
- 11/4, 11:59pm: Group 2 [**Kimber and Sean**] Critical Synthesis (100 points)
- 11/4, 11:59pm: Initial Week 11 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 11/7, 11:59pm: Week 11 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)

Unit 7

- 11/11, 11:59pm: Initial Week 12 Discussion Board Post (30 points)
- 11/14, 11:59pm: Week 12 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)

Unit 8

11/18, 11:59pm: Group 3 [**Jennifer and Maggie**]Critical Synthesis (100 points)

11/18, 11:59pm: Initial Week 13 Discussion Board Post (30 points)

11/21, 11:59pm: Week 13 Discussion Board Response to a Peer (20 points)

12/1, 11:59pm: Historiographical Essay (250 points)

Articles [Authors and Titles, to be sourced on your own]

Unit 1: Key Terms, Key Turns

Required Articles

Cesarani, "The Changing Character of Citizenship and Nationality in Great Britain" in *Citizenship, Nationality, and Migration in Europe* [Week 1, to be read with Colley]

Gorman, "Wider and Wider Still? Racial Politics, Intra-Imperial Immigration and the Absence of an Imperial Citizenship in the British Empire" [Week 2, to be read with Hall and Rose]

Hammerton, "'I'm a Citizen of the World: Late twentieth-century British emigration and global identities – the end of the 'British World'?" in *Empire, Migration, and Identity in the British World* [Week 3, to be read with Perry]

Sasson et al, "Britain and the World: A New Field?" [Week 3, to be read with Perry]

Unit 2: Class

Required Articles

Thompson, "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism"

Lawrence, "Inventing the 'traditional working class': a re-analysis of interview notes from Young and Willmott's Family and Kinship in East London"

Recommended Articles

Bailey, "Will The Real Bill Banks Please Stand Up?" Towards A Role Analysis Of Mid-Victorian Working-Class Respectability"

Daunton, "Gentlemanly capitalism and British industry, 1820-1914"

Durbach, "Comforts, Clubs, and the Casino: Food and the Perpetuation of the British Class System in First World War Civilian Internment Camps"

Harley, "Consumption and Poverty in the Homes of the English Poor, c. 1670-1834"

Hilliard, "'Is It a Book That You Would Even Wish Your Wife or Your Servants to Read?' Obscenity Law and the Politics of Reading in Modern England"

Hinton, "The 'Class' Complex: Mass-Observation and Cultural Distinction in Pre-War Britain"

Johnson, "Class Law in Victorian England"

Klein, "Sociability, politeness, and aristocratic self-formation in the life and career of the second Earl of Shelburne"

McKibbin, "Why Was There No Marxism in Great Britain?"

Mascuch, "Social Mobility and Middling Self-Identity: the ethos of British autobiographers, 1600-1750"

Moran, "Intimate History of Social Mobility in Post-War Britain"

Shaw-Taylor, "Laborers, Cows, Common Rights and Parliamentary Enclosure: the Evidence of Contemporary Comment, c. 1760-1810"

Unit 4: Gender

Required Articles

Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Analysis?"

Vickery, "Golden Age to Separate Spheres: A Review of the Categories and Chronologies of English Women's History"

Recommended Articles

Abrams, "Liberating the female self: epiphanies, conflict and coherence in the life stories of post-war British women"

Chernock, "The Radicalism of Queenship: Mary Wollstonecraft and Alternative Sources of the Rights of Women"

Cohen, "'Manners' Make the Man: Politeness, Chivalry, and the Construction of Masculinity, 1750-1830"

Fisher, "She was quite satisfied with the arrangements I made: Gender and Birth Control in Britain, 1920-1950"

Grant, "British Suffragettes and the Russian Method of Hunger Strike"

Harvey, "The Century of Sex? Gender, Bodies, and Sexuality in the long eighteenth century"

Hindmarch-Watson, "Male Prostitution and the London GPO: Telegraph Boys' "Immorality" from Nationalization to the Cleveland Street Scandal"

Langhammer, "Love and Courtship in Mid Twentieth-Century England"

Prestige, "Housewives having a go: Margaret Thatcher, Mary Whitehouse and the appeal of the Right Wing Woman in late twentieth century Britain"

Purvis, "Did militancy help or hinder the granting of women's suffrage in Britain?"

Thomas, "Historical Pageants, Citizenship and the Performance of Women's History Before Second-Wave Feminism"

Tosh, "Masculinities in an industrializing society: Britain 1800-1914"

Walkowitz, "Jack the Ripper and the Myth of Male Violence"

Wrigley, "Explaining the Rise in Marital Fertility in England in the 'long' 18th Century"

Unit 5: Gender and Race

Required Articles

Davin, "Imperialism and Motherhood"

Sinha, "Giving Masculinity a History: Some Contributions from the Historiography of Colonial India"

Recommended Articles

Bailkin, "The Postcolonial Family? West African Children, Private Fostering, and the British State"

Bland, "British Eugenics and 'Race Crossing': a Study of an Interwar Investigation"

Boucher, "The Limits of Potential: Race, Welfare, and Interwar Extension of Child Emigration to

Southern Rhodesia”

- Finn, M., ‘Slaves out of context: domestic slavery and the Anglo-Indian family, c. 1780-1830’
- Ghosh, Who counts as ‘native?’: gender, race, and subjectivity in colonial India”
- Levine-Clark, “From ‘Relief’ to ‘Justice and Protection’: The Maintenance of Deserted Wives, British Masculinity and Imperial Citizenship, 1870–1920”
- Liburd, “Beyond the pale: whiteness, masculinity and Empire in the British Union of Fascists, 1932–1940
- Midgley, “Anti-slavery and feminism in 19th-century Britain”
- Pedersen, “National Bodies, Unspeakable Acts: The Sexual Politics of Colonial Policy-Making”
- Proctor, “Scouting and Guiding in Interwar Africa”
- Shaw, “In the Name of the Mother: The Story of Susannah Mingo, A Woman of Color in the Early English Atlantic”
- Webster, “Elspeth Huxley: Gender, Empire and Narratives of Nation, 1935-1964”
- Wilson, “Rethinking the Colonial State: Family, Gender, and Governmentality in Eighteenth Century British Frontiers”

Unit 6: Race

Required Articles

- Hall, “New Ethnicities”
- Foks, “Emigration state: race, citizenship and settler imperialism in modern British history, c. 1850-1972’

Recommended Articles

- Buchan and Sebastiani, “‘No distinction of Black or Fair’: The Natural History of Race in Adam Ferguson’s Lectures on Moral Philosophy”
- Buettner, “‘This is Staffordshire not Alabama’: Racial Geographies of Commonwealth Immigration in Early 1960s Britain”
- Cohen, “Who Was Who? Race and Jews in Turn-of-the-Century Britain”
- Heere, “That Racial Chasm That Yawns Eternally in Our Midst”: the British Empire and the politics of Asian migration, 1900–14
- Levitan, “Sprung from Ourselves”: Counting Race at Home and in the Colonies”
- Nava, “Sometimes antagonistic, sometimes ardently, sympathetic: Contradictory responses to migrants in postwar Britain”
- Qureshi, “Robert Gordon Latham, Displayed Peoples and the Natural History of Race, 1854–1866”
- Rush, “Imperial Identity in Colonial Minds: Harold Moody and the League of Coloured Peoples, 1931–50”
- Schaffer and Nasar, “The white essential subject: race, ethnicity, and the Irish in post-war Britain”
- Schofield and Jones, “‘Whatever Community Is, This Is Not It’: Notting Hill and the Reconstruction of ‘Race’ in Britain after 1958”
- Schwarz, “‘The Only White Man In There: The Re-Racialisation of England, 1956-68”
- Szreter, ‘Such a Group! Presenting so Many Nationalities’: Social Cohesion and People of

Colour Settling in Victorian Britain

Tuck, "Malcolm X's Visit to Oxford University: U.S. Civil Rights, Black Britain, and the Special Relationship on Race"

Wagner, "Confessions of a Skull: Phrenology and Colonial Knowledge in Early Nineteenth-Century India"

Unit 7: Race and Class

Required Articles

Hyslop, "The Imperial Working Class Makes Itself 'White': White Labourism in Britain, Australia, and South Africa Before the First World War"

Tabili, "The construction of racial difference in twentieth-century Britain: the special restriction (Coloured Alien Seamen) Order, 1925"

Recommended Articles

Bivins, "Picturing Race in the British National Health Service, 1948-1988"

Bressey, "Looking for Work: the Black Presence in Britain, 1860-1920"

Connolly, "Indentured Labour Migration and the Meaning of Emancipation: Free Trade, Race, and Labour in British Public Debate, 1838-1860"

Datta, "Responses to traveling Indian ayahs in nineteenth and early twentieth century Britain"

Hanley, "Slavery and the Birth of Working-Class Racism in England, 1814-1833"

Holland, Toffee Men, Traveling Drapers and Black-Market Perfumers—South Asian Networks of Petty Trade in Early Twentieth Century Britain

Jenkinson, "Black Sailors on Red Clydeside: Rioting, Reactionary Trade Unionism and Conflicting Notions of 'Britishness' Following the First World War"

Renwick, "Eugenics, Population Research, and Social Mobility Studies in Early to Mid Twentieth-Century Britain"

Saini, "England Failed to do her Duty towards Them': The India Office and Pauper Indians in the Metropole, 1857-1914"

Sinha, "Britishness, Clubbability, and the Colonial Public Sphere: The Genealogy of an Imperial Institution in Colonial India"