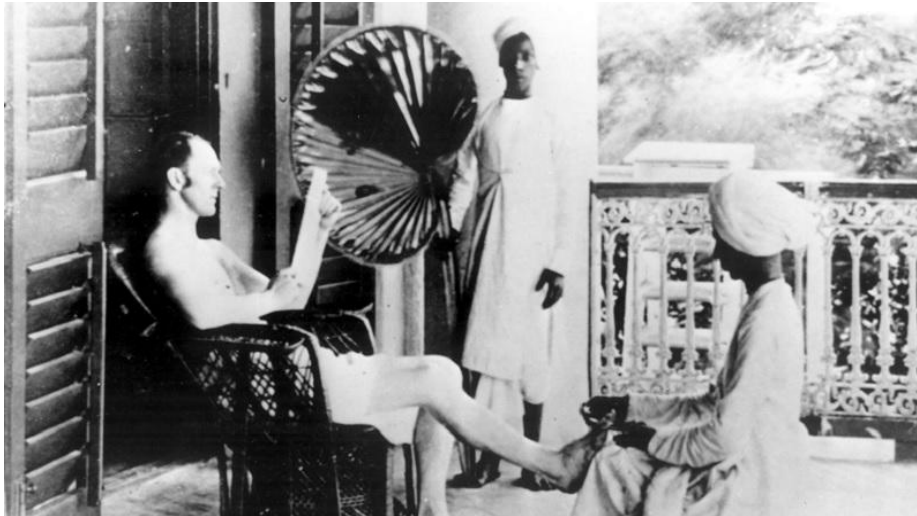


History 5389
CRN 21236
Great Britain and the British Empire
Credit Hours: 3
Spring 2020



Dr. Sarah Mass
ABIV 461
(936) 294-3836
smmass@shsu.edu
Office Hours:
Tuesdays: 3:30-4:30
Thursdays: 10-11
And by appt

Course Description

This course covers major debates and developments in the history of Britain and its empire from the sixteenth century to the present. For many years, the history of Britain was studied in isolation to its overseas empire. Since the 1980s, the history of Britain has increasingly become the history of Britain *and* empire. In the past fifteen years, historians have developed a new field of “Britain and the World,” which looks beyond formal colonial and imperial relationships to consider how globalization has changed Britain, and how Britain fueled globalization. With this rich and contentious historiography in mind, the course is structured around five units/areas of study: nation-making, liberal political economy, gender and sexuality, the twentieth-century wars, and the post-war period.

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

Course Objectives

Disciplinary Literacy: Become familiar with the major debates in the field of modern British and British imperial history

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 differences and explain what we can learn by putting these different texts in conversation

Creative Historical Thinking: Generate and defend your own sub-unit of British and/or British imperial history produced from the further reading lists and your own scholarly interests

Personal and Social Responsibility: Meet and collaborate with classmates to produce a group presentation

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. 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 <https://doi-org.ezproxy.shsu.edu/10.4324/9781315748610>. Vernon, *Modern Britain: 1750 to the Present* is another useful, argument-driven overview of our time period and topics.

All but Ogborn and Walkowitz are available free through the library

Ogborn, *Global Lives: Britain and the World, 1550-1800* (ISBN: 978-0521607186)

Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837* (978-0300152807)

Direct Link: <https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.shsu.edu/stable/j.ctt5vm1mq>

Brown, *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism* (978-0807856987)

Library has print copy (DA485 .C65 1992)

Direct Link:

<https://ezproxy.shsu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=965102&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Griffin, *Liberty's Dawn: A People's History of the Industrial Revolution* (978-0300205251)

Library has print copy (HC253 .G75 2013)

Direct link:

<https://ezproxy.shsu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=573211&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London* (978-0226871462)

Sinha, *Specters of Mother India: The Global Restructuring of an Empire* (978-0822337959)

Library has print copy (DS480.45 .S563 2006)

Direct link: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/shsu/detail.action?docID=1169335>

Allport, *Demobbed: Coming Home After the Second World War* (978-0300168860)

Library has print copy (DA588 .A563 2009)

Direct link: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/shsu/detail.action?docID=4585731>

Perry, *London is the Place for Me: Black Britons, Citizenship, and the Politics of Race* (978-0190909949)

Direct link:

<https://ezproxy.shsu.edu/login?url=https://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190240202.001.0001/acprof-9780190240202>

Ortolano, *Thatcher's Progress: From Social Democracy to Market Liberalism through an English New Town* (978-1108482660)

Direct link: <https://doi-org.ezproxy.shsu.edu/10.1017/9781108697262>

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 must upload a “first thoughts” post for each week of the semester. You will be expected to communicate with your group members in the lead-up to your expert presentation. In addition, make sure you are checking your SHSU email regularly (at least twice a week) for updates from me.

Course Assessments and Grading

Every week, you will be expected to upload a “first thoughts” post. This means selecting a passage from the book we are reading that week and explaining your reaction to that selection (this could be a question, a connection, an analysis, etc.). Each unit, a group of two or three will present on the unit theme through a broad discussion of the assigned books, plus **at least four** of the additional readings. In the second half of the course, you will have three writing assignments.

“First Thoughts” Posts (10 total, 20 points each due Tuesdays 11:59)	200 points
Expert Presentation (due Tuesdays 11:59)	200 points
Book Review (due March 3, 11:59)	200 points
Position Paper: Additional Unit (due April 7, 11:59)	150 points
Historiographical Essay (due May 1, 11:59pm)	250 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. First thoughts posts and your expert presentations must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date. 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, position paper, and historiographical essay, there is more leeway. If you give me more than 48 hours notice that you will need an extension, it will be granted no questions asked. *Within* 48 hours, I will need a reason for the extension. If I have not granted an extension for an assignment, your grade will be reduced by 10 points for each day late.

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 the 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 24 hrs. If it is sent on the weekends, I may take a little longer.

Reading and Assessment Schedule

Week 1 (Jan 15-21)

Burton, "Who Needs The Nation? Interrogating 'British' History"

Unit 1: Nation-Making and the British World (Weeks 2-4)

To what extent was "British" national identity coterminous with imperial identity? How far did "Britain" extend during the growth and height of Empire?

Additional Reading:

Anderson, *Subaltern Lives: Biographies of Colonialism in the Indian Ocean World, 1790-1920*

Armitage, "Making the Empire British: Scotland and the Atlantic World, 1542-1707"

Behlmer, *Risky Shores: Savagery and Colonialism in the Western Pacific*

Belich, *Replenishing the Earth: The Settler Revolution and the Rise of the Angloworld*

Buettner, *Empire Families: Britons and Late Imperial India*

Cohen, "Love and Money in the Informal Empire: The British in Argentina, 1830-1930"

Daunton and Halpern, *Empire and Others: British Encounters with Indiggenous Peoples, 1600-1850*

Finn, "Anglo-Indian Lives in the Later Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries"

Jasanoff, "Collectors of Empire: Objects, Conquest, and Imperial Self-Fashioning"

MacInnes, *Union and Empire: The Making of the United Kingdom in 1707*

Markley, *The Far East and the English Imagination*

McGrath, *Ireland and Empire, 1692-1770*

Perry, "'Is Your Garden in England, Sir': James Douglas's Archive and the Politics of Home"

Pietsch, "Rethinking the British World"

Samuel, "British Dimensions: Four Nations History"

Week 2 (Jan 22-28) Ogborn

Week 3 (Jan 29-Feb 4) Colley

Week 4 (Feb 5-11)

Unit 2: Creating a Liberal Political Economy (Weeks 5-7)

How did economic liberalism interact with different forms of liberal thought in the age of abolition and industrialization? How did conditions of labor, both free and unfree, shape British values and institutions during this formative economic period?

Allen, *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*

Amussen, *Caribbean Exchanges: Slavery and the Transformation of English Society, 1640-1700*

Arniel, "Trade, Plantations and Property: John Locke and the Economic Defence of Colonialism"

Bell, "What is Liberalism?" in *Reordering the World: Essays on Liberalism and Empire*

Bischof, "Chinese Laborers, Free Blacks, and Social Engineering in the Post-Emancipation British West Indies"

Gallagher and Robinson, "The Imperialism of Free Trade"

Hall, *Civilizing Subjects: Metropole and Colony in the English Imagination, 1830-1867*

Hobsbawm, "The British Standard of Living, 1790-1850"

--- *Industry and Empire*

Holt, *The Problem of Freedom: Race, Labor, and Politics in Jamaica and Britain, 1832-1938*

Jonsson, "Scottish Tobacco and Rhubarb: The Natural Order of Civil Cameralism in the Scottish Enlightenment"

Koehn, *The Power of Commerce: Economy and Governance in the First British Empire*

Mokyr, *The Enlightened Economy*

Pettigrew, *Freedom's Debt: The Royal African Company and the Politics of the Atlantic Slave Trade, 1672-1752*

Pincus, "Rethinking Mercantilism: Political Economy, the British Empire, and the Atlantic World in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century"

Sartori, "Review Article: The British Empire and Its Liberal Mission"

Satia, *Empire of Guns: The Violent Making of the Industrial Revolution*

Scanlan, *Freedom's Debtors: British Antislavery in Sierra Leone in the Age of Revolution*

Stern, *The Company-State: Corporate Sovereignty and the Early Modern Foundations of the British Empire in India*

Swingen, *Competing Visions of Empire: Labor, Slavery, and the Origins of the British Atlantic Empire*

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

Turner, "Home Grown Slaves: Women, Reproduction, and the Abolition of the Slave Trade, Jamaica, 1788-1807"

Week 5 (Feb 12-18) Brown

Week 6 (Feb 19-25) Griffin

Week 7 (Feb 26-March 3)

Unit 3: Gender, Sexuality, and the Public Sphere (Weeks 8-10)

How useful is the theory of “separate spheres” (that men and women occupied fundamentally different social roles in modern Britain and the Empire)? How did certain individuals and particular social movements challenge this idea, and what were their effects?

Clark, *Scandal: The Sexual Politics of the British Constitution*

D’Cruze, *Crimes of Outrage: Sex, Violence, and Victorian Working Women*

Gandhi, *Affective Communities: Anticolonial Thought, Fin-de-Siècle Radicalism and the Politics of Friendship*

Hall, *Civilizing Subjects*

Houlbrook, “The Man with the Powder Puff in Interwar London”

Koven, “The Queer Politics of Slumming”

Laite, “Immoral Traffic: Sex, Mobility, Labour and the Lorry Girl in early Twentieth Century Britain”

McCarthy, “Petticoat Diplomacy: The Admission of Women to the British Foreign Service, 1919-1946”

McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*

Midgley, “Can Women Be Missionaries?”

Mukherjee, “The All-Asian Women’s Conference 1931: Indian women and their leadership of a pan-Asian feminist organization”

Prevost, “On Feminists, Functionalists, and Friends”

Tosh, “Gentlemanly Politeness and Manly Simplicity in Victorian England”

Upchurch, *Before Wilde: Sex Between Men in Britain’s Age of Reform*

Zweiniger-Bargielowska, *Managing the body: beauty, health, and fitness in Britain, 1880-1939*

Week 8 (March 4-March 10) Walkowitz

Week 9 (March 11-17) Sinha

Week 10 (March 18-24)

Unit 4: War and Social Change (Weeks 11-12)

Did war precipitate or accelerate social change in twentieth-century Britain? What was the relationship between subjective experience and national identity during the wars and in their aftermath?

Bourke, “Effeminacy, Ethnicity, and the End of Trauma: The Sufferings of ‘Shell-shocked’ Men in Great Britain and Ireland, 1914-1939”

Fielding, “What Did The People Want? The Meaning of the 1945 General Election”

Gullace, *The Blood of Our Sons: Men, Women, and the Renegotiation of Citizenship During the Great War*

Hinton, *Nine Wartime Lives: Mass Observation and the Making of the Modern Self*

Holden, “Imaginary Widows: Spinsters, Marriage, and the ‘Lost Generation’ in Britain After the Great War”

Kent, *Aftershocks: Politics and Trauma in Britain, 1918-1931*

Lawrence, “Forging a Peaceable Kingdom: War, Violence, and Fear of Brutalization in Post-First

World War Britain”

Levine, “Battle Colors: Race, Sex and Colonial Soldierly in World War I”

Noakes, “A Broken Silence? Mass Observation, Armistice Day, and Everyday Life in Britain, 1937-1941”

Roper, “Nostalgia as an Emotional Experience in the Great War”

Rose, “Sex, Citizenship, and Nation in World War II Britain”

Shapira, *The War Inside: Psychoanalysis, Total War, and the Making of the Democratic Self in Postwar Britain*

Summerfield, “Dunkirk and the Popular Memory of Britain at War, 1940-1958”

Ussishkin, *Morale: A Modern British History*

Webster, *Mixing It: Diversity in World War Two Britain*

Week 11 (March 25-31) Allport

Week 12 (April 1-7)

Unit 5: Living in New Times: Britain since 1945 (Weeks 13-15)

What were the main fault lines in postwar Britain? How did the loss of empire affect national identity?

Bailkin, *The Afterlife of Empire*

Bivins, *Contagious Communities: Medicine, Migration, and the NHS in Post War Britain*

Brewitt-Taylor, “The Invention of a ‘Secular Society’? Christianity and the Sudden Appearance of Secularization Discourses in the British National Media, 1961-4”

Brooke, “Revisiting Southam Street: Class, Gender, Generation, and Race in the Photography of Roger Mayne”

Brown, *The Death of Christian Britain*

Buettner, “‘Going for an Indian’: South Asian Restaurants and the Limits of Multiculturalism in Britain”

Connell, *Black Handsworth*

Gilroy, *There Ain’t No Black in the Union Jack*

Grant, “Historicizing Citizenship in Postwar Britain”

Howe, “When (If Ever) Did Empire End? Decolonization in British Culture in the 1950s”

Jones and Kandiah, *The Myth of Consensus: New Views on British History. C. 1945-1964*

Lawrence, *Me Me Me?: The Search for Community in Post-war England*

Linstrum, “Facts About Atrocity: Reporting Colonial Violence in Postwar Britain”

Meredith, “Decolonizing the New Town: Roy Gazzard and the Making of Killingworth Township”

Paul, *Whitewashing Britain: Race and Citizenship in the Postwar Era*

Robinson et al, “Telling Stories About Post-War Britain: Popular individualism and the ‘crisis’ of the 1970s”

Saunders and Jackson, *Making Thatcher’s Britain*

Schofield, *Enoch Powell and the Making of Postcolonial Britain*

Schwarz, *The White Man’s World*

Todd, “Affluence, Class, and Crown Street: Reinvestigating the Post-War Working Class”

Waters, Chris “Dark Strangers in Our Midst: Discourses of Race and Nation in Britain, 1947-1963”

Waters, Rob, *Thinking Black*

Webster, *Englishness and Empire, 1939-1965*

Worley, "Shot by Both Sides: Punk, Politics, and the End of 'Consensus'"

Week 13 (April 8-14) Perry

Week 14 (April 15-21) Ortolano

Week 15 (April 22-28)