

History 596 Colloquium in Modern British History

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Course: History 596E
Semester: Fall 2006
Time: T 4:20-6:50 pm
Location: SH288

Description: This graduate-level reading colloquium is designed to provide an introduction to important themes and historiographical debates in modern British history. As any such survey must be highly selective, the readings featured here have been chosen to provide a sampling of classic works as well as an overview of more recent scholarship. Chronologically, this course traces Britain's transformation from a loose collection of agrarian, second-rate European kingdoms in 1700 into the world's foremost financial, industrial, and commercial empire by 1900, only to see that power and primacy decline precipitously by the mid-twentieth century. Discussion topics will focus primarily on the formation of class, gender, national, and imperial identities.

Assignments:

- Active, informed, engaged, respectful participation in class discussions (20%)
- A 5-page essay on the history and historical significance of a person, place, or thing in modern British history, due October 24 (20%)
- A 5-page essay exploring the reception and impact of one of the assigned readings, due on the day that book is discussed in class (20%)
- A 15-page historiographical essay using *secondary* sources on a subject of your choice, due December 19 (40%)

Readings: The following books are available for purchase at Matador. Additional articles listed on the syllabus will be available online or on reserve at Oviatt Library.

- E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (Vintage, 1966)
- Anna Clark, *The Struggle for the Breeches* (California, 1997)
- Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837* (Yale, 1992)
- Joseph Inikori, *Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England* (Cambridge, 2002)
- David Cannadine, *Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire* (Oxford, 2002)
- Bernard Porter, *The Absent-Minded Imperialists* (Oxford, 2004)
- Catherine Hall, *Civilising Subjects* (Chicago, 2002)
- Elizabeth Buettner, *Empire Families* (Oxford, 2004)
- Paul Gilroy, *'There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack'* (Chicago, 1987)
- Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, *Imagining the New Britain* (Routledge, 2001)

Policies:

- You are expected to attend each class meeting and to arrive on time. More than two absences or repeated lateness will result in a failing grade for the course. If you miss a class, you must submit a 3-page summary and analysis of the reading for that week before class begins. Please turn off pagers and cell phones during class.
- Late assignments will be marked down 1/3 grade per day. All assignments must be completed in order to receive credit for the course.
- Any student caught plagiarizing (using another person's words or ideas without proper acknowledgment) will receive a failing grade for the course and be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Sept. 5 Introduction

Part I: Class

Sept. 12 E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (Preface and Ch. I-VI, IX-XII, XIV.iv, XV.v, XVI (pp. 1-212, 269-447, 521-52, 669-700, 711-836)

Sept. 19 Anna Clark, *The Struggle for the Breeches*
Joan W. Scott, "Women in *The Making of the English Working Class*" in *Gender and the Politics of History* (1988)

Part II: Nation

Sept. 26 Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837* (Yale, 1992)

Oct. 3 David Armitage, "Greater Britain: A Useful Category of Analysis?" *AHR* 104:2 (1999): 427-445.
Antoinette Burton, "Who Needs the Nation? Interrogating 'British' History" in Catherine Hall, *Cultures of Empire*, 137-53.

Part III: Industry

Oct. 10 Rondo Cameron, "The Industrial Revolution: A Misnomer," *History Teacher* 15 (1982): 377-84
David Cannadine, "The Past and the Present in the Industrial Revolution," *Past and Present* 103 (1984): 131-72
Maxine Berg and Pat Hudson, "Rehabilitating the Industrial Revolution," *Economic History Review* 45:1 (1992)

Oct. 17 Joseph Inikori, *Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England*
Patrick K. O'Brien, "The Reconstruction, Reconfiguration, and Rehabilitation of the British Industrial Revolution as a Conjuncture in Global History," *Itinerario* 24 (2000): 117-34

Part IV: Empire

Oct. 24 Edward Said, *Orientalism* (Random House, 1978), pp. 1-49; *Culture and Imperialism* (Random House, 1993), Introduction and pp. 1-97

Nov. 7 David Cannadine, *Ornamentalism*
Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History 3:1 (Spring 2002), Special Issue, "From Orientalism to Ornamentalism" [Project Muse]

Nov. 14 Bernard Porter, *The Absent-Minded Imperialists*

Part V: Between Metropole and Colony

Nov. 21 Catherine Hall, *Civilising Subjects*

Nov. 28 Elizabeth Buettner, *Empire Families*

Part VI: A Post-Imperial Nation?

Dec. 5 Paul Gilroy, *'There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack: The Cultural Politics of Race and Nation'*

Dec. 12 Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, *Imagining the New Britain*