Modern English History
Syllabus

Office: Bobet 422 - Tel. 865-2567 - anderson@loyno.edu
Office Hours: T TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and by appointment

Required Texts (Copies of these books can be put on reserve in the library if needed.)

Walter Arnstein, Britain Yesterday and Today, 1830 to the Present, 8th ed.
(New copies of these 2 texts are sold shrinkwrapped together to lessen the cost.)


Source readings, posted on Blackboard.

Course Description:
This course will examine the history of England from 1660 to the present. The focus will be on social change from the eighteenth-century age of aristocracy and the nineteenth-century industrial middle-class society to the twentieth-century rise of the Labour Party and the emergence of the welfare state. As part of this social transformation we will explore the changing role of women, family structure, religion, work, and play. We will analyze the gradual democratization of Parliament even as we seek to explain the continuation of royalty and the aristocracy in the modern English state. Art, literature, and music will be used as tools for better understanding the English historical experience.

We will also study the changing international role of England from a position of world dominance to (ambivalent) membership in the European Union. England's deep-rooted, ongoing troubled relationship with Ireland will be put in historical perspective, as well as its relationship with the other parts of the United Kingdom (Wales, Scotland.) Finally, we will analyze the reasons for England's economic strength in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as the first industrial nation and the economic challenges of the twentieth century and thereafter.
Course Requirements and Grading:

In this upper-division history course, it is expected that each student participate actively in discussion in class of the material from the assigned readings. Most of the readings in the class (except the textbooks *The Age of Aristocracy* and *Britain Yesterday and Today*) are “primary source” readings – e.g. authentic readings from the period. These readings especially lend themselves to lively discussion and analysis. It is therefore crucial that you complete the assigned readings before class. There will often be brief writing quizzes at the beginning of class on days when readings other than from the textbooks are assigned.

There will be one midterm (25%); a comprehensive final exam on **Thursday, May 12 from 9-11 a.m.** (30%); quizzes (25%); and a research paper (20%). Class attendance is required. More than three unexcused absences will lower your final grade by 2 points for each additional unexcused absence. Two unexcused tardies = one unexcused absence. Excused absences require written documentation, such as a doctor's note. Makeups are allowed only with compelling documented excuses, and must be taken within a week of your return to school.

Blackboard

All course materials will be posted on our course *Blackboard* site (see separate Blackboard instructions.)

Class policies:

To maintain the learning environment of our class, you should follow the following guidelines: no eating in class; turn off cell phones before class; no talking to other students except in a class discussion inclusive of all students. It is disruptive to the class to have students coming in late/leaving early. If you have to come in late (and this should happen rarely), do so quietly and discreetly. (Note that tardies are penalized as 1/2 absences.) If you have to leave the class early, be sure to let me know before class (and unexcused early leavings are counted as 1/2 absences.)

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Modern English History
Assignments – 1

Tues. Jan. 11  Introduction to Modern English History:
1. Course Description and Requirements
2. Major Forces Shaping English History up to 1660

Thurs. Jan. 13  Restoration of the Monarchy, 1660-1685

No readings. Begin thinking about research paper topic. Browse through textbooks (*The Age of Aristocracy/Britain Today and Yesterday*) for ideas and info on various subjects listed on the research paper instruction sheet.

Tues. Jan. 18  The “Glorious” Revolution of 1688

Readings: *The Age of Aristocracy*, pp. 3-25
Source readings (on Blackboard, under "course material"
1. “Excerpts from the diary of John Evelyn”
2. “English Bill of Rights (1689)”

Thurs. Jan. 20  Constitutional and Military Consequences of the Revolution of 1688

Readings: *The Age of Aristocracy*, pp.26-45
Source reading: “William III’s attempt to rally Protestant England against Catholic Louis XIV (1701)”

**Research Paper - Stage #1:** Turn in typed statement of your first choice and second choice for research paper topic. Say why you want to research the topics. Then make an appointment with me to discuss the topic and your research, if you have not done so already.

Tues. Jan. 25  Robert Walpole and William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham: politics and empire in the 18th century

Readings: *The Age of Aristocracy*, pp. 79-130
Source readings: William Pitt the Elder (later Earl of Chatham), "On a motion for inquiring into the conduct of Sir Robert Walpole" (1742) and "On Taking the Hanoverian Troops into the Pay of Great Britain" (1742)

Thurs. Jan. 27  18th-century Art, Music, and Literature as Reflections and Criticisms of Aristocratic Society

Readings: *The Age of Aristocracy*, pp. 47-78, 131-147
Film excerpt: John Gay's "The Beggar's Opera",

**Tues. Feb. 1**  
**Discussion:** Oliver Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield.*

Read *The Vicar of Wakefield* not only for the pleasure of enjoying a delightful book, but also as an historical source for the eighteenth century. As you read the novel, mark the sections that give you insights into 18th-century English society, and be prepared to discuss them in class.

**Thurs. Feb. 3**  
Revolutionary Forces of Dissolution of the Age of Aristocracy: Part 1: The Democratic Challenge

Readings:  
*The Age of Aristocracy*, pp. 151-185  
Source readings: (These do not have to read before class)  
“Stamp Act resolutions” (1765)  
“William Pitt’s (Lord Chatham's) speech against the Stamp Act” (1765)  
"Lord Chatham's speech on the Motion to His Majesty, to give immediate orders for removing his troops from Boston" (1775)

**Research Paper - Stage #2** Turn in (typed) paragraph discussing the central question you are seeking to answer with your research, a working outline of paper, and tentative bibliography of at least 4 secondary books, 2 journal articles, and one primary source. Indicate for each book/journal where the book/source is located (e.g. Loyola Library, Tulane Lib. etc.)

**Happy Mardi Gras!**

**Tues. Feb. 15**  
The Impact of the French Revolution on England

Readings:  
*The Age of Aristocracy*, pp. 207-239  

**Thurs. Feb. 17**  
British Foreign Policy and the Napoleonic Wars

Readings:  
*The Age of Aristocracy*, pp. 239-289

**Tues. Feb. 22**  
Revolutionary Forces of Dissolution of the Age of Aristocracy: Part 2 - The Industrial Revolution

Readings:  
*The Age of Aristocracy*, pp. 186-206  
Source reading: “Women miners in the English Coal Pits (1842)”
Thurs. Feb. 24  Reaction, Romanticism, and Reform in the early-19th century

Readings:  *The Age of Aristocracy*, pp. 290-325
Source reading: Lord Byron: “The Isles of Greece”

Tues. Mar. 1  British Foreign Policy in the early- and mid-19th century

Readings:  Willcox, pp. 290-325
Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today*, pp. 62-73

Thurs. Mar. 3  Midterm

Tues. Mar. 8  Early-Victorian Reform: Responses to Industrialization

[Readings: Arnstein, pp. 3-61. Read before final exam.]

Research paper - Stage #3: Turn in a detailed outline of your paper, incorporating material from your research so far. Also include a draft of the first paragraph of your paper, in which you clearly set forth the thesis and general topic of your paper. Remember that effective papers always begin with strong first paragraphs, in which especially the first sentence is a grabber. Make appointment with me to discuss your research/paper so far.

Thurs. Mar. 10  Victorian Culture and Society

No readings.

Tues. Mar. 15  Darwin and Darwinism

Be prepared for a quiz on the book.

Thurs. Mar. 17  St. Patrick’s Day: the Struggle for Irish Home Rule

Readings: Arnstein, pp. 159-172

*Happy Spring Break!*

Tues. Mar. 29  Gladstone and Disraeli

Readings:  Arnstein, pp. 120-155

Thurs. Mar. 31  Britain in the Fin de Siècle: Empire, Culture, and Society

[No readings.]
RESEARCH PAPERS DUE, at beginning of class. Turn in ALL your research notes along with your paper. Note that “research notes” does not meant just rough draft, but the actual research notes that you compiled. Annotated xeroxed copies of articles as part of your research notes are acceptable.

Tues. Apr. 5  The Emerging Political Power of the Working Classes in late-19th-early-20th century Britain

Readings: Arnstein, pp. 191-209 (and start reading reading assignment from Testament of Youth for next class)

Thurs. Apr. 7  Edwardian England: Pleasures and Protest


[Arnstein, pp. 211-243. Read before final exam – not responsible for this reading today because of Testament of Youth reading assignment.]

Tues. Apr. 12  Britain and World War I


[Arnstein, pp. 244-277. Read before final exam – not responsible for this reading today because of Testament of Youth reading assignment.]

Thurs. Apr. 14  English Society between the Wars

Readings: Arnstein, pp. 278-322.

Tues. Apr. 19  The Age of Churchill, Pt. 1: Churchill before WW II

Readings: John Keegan, Winston Churchill, pp. 1-110

Thurs. Apr. 21  The Age of Churchill, Pt. 2: World War II

Readings: Winston Churchill, pp. 111-192

[Arnstein, pp. 323-359 - You are not responsible for this reading for today - definitely for the final exam. But if you do not have background on WWII, it will be helpful to read it before the Churchill reading.]

Tues. Apr. 26  The Making of the Welfare State

Readings: Arnstein, pp. 360-387

Source reading: Labour Party Manifesto – excerpts (1945)
Thurs. Apr. 28   Britain’s Changing Role in the World: From Empire to the Commonwealth of Nations and the Economic Union

Readings:   Arnstein, pp. 389-440

Tues. May 3   The Age of Thatcher and thereafter

Readings:   Arnstein, pp. 441-482
Source reading:   Margaret Thatcher, “Christianity and Wealth”

FINAL EXAM:   Thurs. May 12   9-11 a.m.
   Bring a large blue book.