

## ***History of Britain and the British Empire, 1688-Present***

- week 1. Restoration Settlements, 1660-1689  
Jan. 9. Introduction: England, Britain, United Kingdom?  
Jan. 11. Seaward, "The Restoration" (handout)<sup>1</sup>
- week 2. Revolution Settlement, 1688-1715  
Jan. 16. LANGFORD, ch. 1; Heyck, "The Revolution of 1688 and the Revolution Settlement" (handout)<sup>2</sup>  
Jan. 18. Discussion on the Glorious Revolution: *Past Speaks*, ch. 1 (Evelyn, Burnet, Bill of Rights)
- week 3. Making of the English Ruling Class, 1714-1760  
Jan. 23. LANGFORD, chs. 2-4  
Jan. 25. Discussion on Preindustrial England: *Past Speaks*, ch. 2 (King, Young, Defoe—both)
- week 4. George III, Parliament, and America, 1760-1783  
Jan. 30. LANGFORD, chs. 5-6  
Feb. 1. Discussion on Britain and America: *Past Speaks*, ch. 5 (all documents, 1775-1778)
- week 5. Industrial Britain: The First Modern Society  
Feb. 6. HARVIE, chs. 1-2 & 8; ARNSTEIN, ch. 2  
Feb. 8. MID-TERM EXAM I
- week 6. Britain and Europe in the Revolutionary Age, 1784-1815  
Feb. 13. HARVIE, ch. 4  
Feb. 15. Impact of the French Revolution upon Britain: *Past Speaks*, ch. 6 (all documents); **Debate preparation**
- week 7. Parliamentary Reform and Reformers, 1815-1840s  
Feb. 20. HARVIE, chs. 5-7; ARNSTEIN, chs. 1 & 3  
Feb. 22. Impact of the French Revolution upon Britain: *Past Speaks*, ch. 6 (and *The Times*); **Debate (debate preparation sheet due)**
- week 8. "Gladstoneandisraeli": Victorian Social Consensus, 1850s-1880s (and the Irish Question)  
Feb. 27. HARVIE, chs. 11 & 18; ARNSTEIN, chs. 5 (pp. 85-112 only) & 7  
March 1. ARNSTEIN, ch. 9; HARVIE, ch. 19; **Revolutionary debate essay due**
- week 9. Victorian Empire  
March 6. ARNSTEIN, chs. 6 (pp. 114-120 only) & 10  
March 8. Discussion on the Empire: *Past Speaks*, ch. 12 (all documents before 1900)
- week 10. Liberalism *versus* Socialism, 1890s-1914  
March 20. ARNSTEIN, chs. 11 (esp. 199-209) & 12 (esp. pp. 222-243)  
March 22. MID-TERM EXAM II
- week 11. The Killing Front, 1914-1918  
March 27. ARNSTEIN, chs. 13 & 14  
March 29. ORWELL, publisher's note, foreword
- week 12. The Long-Weekend and the Slump, 1919-1935  
April 3. ARNSTEIN, chs. 15-16  
April 5. ORWELL, part I



Sikhs at the Somme, 1916



Winnie at Westminster, 1941

week 13. Britain's War, 1935-1945

April 10. ARNSTEIN, chs. 17-18; **Orwell and Times pre-assignment due**

April 12. Depression and Alternatives: *Past Speaks*, ch. 15 (Strachey, Mosley, Barker); ORWELL, part II

week 14. The People's Peace and *I'm all Right Jack*, 1945-1960s

April 17. ARNSTEIN, chs. 19-20

April 19. Swinging Sixties: *Past Speaks*, ch. 18 (*Time*); Larkin & others (handout); **Orwell and Times paper due**

week 15. Northern Ireland and Devolution

April 24. ARNSTEIN, chs. 21 (pp. 245-429 only) & 22 (pp. 445-459 only)

April 26. Conclusion: A not so united kingdom?

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Issued by Textbook Rental:

–Walter L. Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today: 1830 to the Present*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (2001): ARNSTEIN

–Walter L. Arnstein, ed., *The Past Speaks: Sources and Problems in British History*, II, *Since 1688*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1993): *Past Speaks*

–Christopher Harvie and H.C.G. Matthew, *Nineteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction* (1984, 2000): HARVIE

–Paul Langford, *Eighteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction* (1984, 2000): LANGFORD

–George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937, 1958): ORWELL

His 3110 provides a narrative of British history from the Revolution of William and Mary through the counter-revolution of Margaret Thatcher and beyond to the sunny vistas(?) of New Labour. It stresses the social, economic, and even religious bases of struggles about parliamentary democracy and imperial domination. It also provides a chance to understand the contemporary issues in Britain from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries by using primary documents. Generally, I lecture on Tuesday and we discuss sources on Thursday (bring the appropriate book). An enhanced version of this syllabus is at <http://ux1.eiu.edu/~nekey/syllabi/brit.htm>.

Everyone will write two typed, double-spaced essays: (1) one arguing that Britain is in need of a revolution (Paineites) or does not need one (Burkeites) in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (4 page, with one-page, single-spaced debate preparation sheet, 15%); and (2) a research/analysis paper using Orwell, *Road to Wigan Pier* and *The Times* (6-7 page, 25%).

For exams you must purchase (about 25 cents each at the Union bookstore), sign, and turn in all three exam booklets **before** Feb 1. You cannot take an exam if you have not turned in booklets beforehand. There will be two mid-terms (15% each), and a final exam (20%). The mid-terms and final will consist of short-answer, identifications, short-essay comparisons, analysis of excerpts from the assigned primary sources, and related essay questions. Mapping and political narratives may either be included in mid-terms or separately as part of your participation grade (notice and particulars will be given). (Anyone with a documented disability should let me know the first week of class—before 18 Jan.—so that we can make appropriate accommodations.) The history department has graduate students available for tutoring (CH 2726). And do approach me for questions and clarifications. I will talk to you about history virtually anytime.

Participation (based on occasional in-class writing and contribution to discussions and the debate) is required (10%), though extra credit (up to 5% of final grade) can be obtained by an optional extra essay on the final. More than three absences will adversely affect your participation grade. Of course, your grade as a whole will be lowered if your absences fall on the date of an assigned debate. (There is no make-up for the final. Other make-ups are discouraged and are at the professor's discretion.) Any revisions to this syllabus will be announced well in advance and posted on my website.

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My office is 3725 Coleman Hall (581-6360; e-mail = [nekey@eiu.edu](mailto:nekey@eiu.edu)). I have scheduled office hours M, W, 9:30-11:30; T, Th, 10:00-10:45; and by appointment (I am in my office virtually every day).

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Notes

1. Paul Seaward, "The Restoration, 1660-1688," in *Stuart England*, ed. Blair Worden (Oxford, 1986), 147, 150-1, 154-5, 168-9, 161, 164-7, 170-5.

2. Thomas William Heyck, *The Peoples of the British Isles: A New History*, II, *From 1688 to 1870* (Belmont, CA, 1992), ch. 2 (28-52).