

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of History  
2013–2014

**History 3411E (001)**  
**The British Isles from 1688: Glorious Revolution to ‘Broken Britain’**

Mondays: 1:30-4:30 pm, SH 3305

Professor Allyson N. May  
Lawson Hall 1205  
Email: [amay6@uwo.ca](mailto:amay6@uwo.ca)

Office hours: Thurs. 3:30-4:30 pm  
Or by appointment

This course covers British history from the constitutional revolution of 1688/9 through Britain’s triumph as the first industrial nation and a great imperial power to the post-industrial, post-imperial present often described as ‘Broken Britain’. Key themes include the development of parliamentary democracy, the transformation of monarchy, empire and decolonization, and class, race and gender relations. We will also explore the experience of childhood, changing conceptions of ‘home’, sporting history, and riot as an expression of political, economic and racial discontents.

In addition to the two-hour lecture students will meet every two weeks for discussion (colloquia) of shared readings in the third hour. The material assigned for these discussions will range in genre from political writing through journalism, poetry and plays.

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will:

- become familiar with the major political, economic, cultural and social changes which occurred in Britain between 1688 and the present day
- be made aware of the development of both parliamentary democracy and party politics and introduced to key figures in the British political sphere, from Robert Walpole to Tony Blair
- have examined the respective effects of imperial expansion and decolonization on Britain’s history
- learn to analyse primary sources drawn from a variety of genres
- hone their skills in the research and writing of history essays
- be trained in the art of preparing for and writing history exams, and  
→generally develop the analytical skills that will allow them to think for themselves rather than inside the prescribed boxes imposed by an increasingly dull, homogenous and over-regulated world

**Assignments**

Book report	(1500 words, due 21 October)	12.5%
Book report	(1500 words, due 13 January)	12.5%
Essay	(3000 words, due 17 March)	30%
Final examination (3 hours)		35%
Participation		10%

Potential themes for each book report will be posted online at the beginning of the first term and before the end of that term respectively. The essay topics will be chosen in consultation with the instructor by the end of the first term. **No essays will be accepted on topics not recorded in advance. Electronic submission of all three papers to turnitin.com, as well as submission of hard copies, is required.** The final examination will consist of three essay questions: one (of three) on the period 1688–1815; one (of three) on the period 1815–1914; and one (of three) on the period since 1914. There may be some overlap in these periods and some comparative questions from more than one period.

Students are reminded that academic accommodation on medical grounds can in most instances **only** be granted if supported by a **University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate**. This form can be accessed at the following website: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty. (For Social Science students 2105 SSC.) Further details on this policy can be found at the following website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

### **Texts:**

William B. Willcox & Walter L. Arnstein, *The Age of Aristocracy, 1688–1830*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Boston, 2001)  
Walter L. Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today, 1830 to the Present*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Boston, 2001)  
Walter L. Arnstein, ed., *The Past Speaks: Sources and Problems in British History*, Vol. II (Lexington, MA, 1993)  
Harold Pinter, *The Birthday Party* (Faber, 1991)

#### *For book reports:*

Richard Holmes, *Redcoat: The British Soldier in the Age of Horse and Musket* (HarperCollins, New ed. 2002)  
Simon Garfield, *We are at War: The Diaries of Five Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times* (Ebury Press, 2006)

The first two are standard textbooks; earlier editions may be used but the pagination may vary. *The Past Speaks* will provide the basis for some of the bi-weekly discussions, study questions for which will be distributed in advance. Used copies should be readily available. The Holmes and Garfield texts assigned for reports will also be discussed in the colloquia (after the reports themselves have been submitted), as will *The Birthday Party*. Additional colloquia material will be distributed online.

### ***First Term***

- 1 (9 Sept.) Introduction: Why British History?**
- 2 (16 Sept.) The Glorious Revolution and the Eighteenth-Century Political System**  
Willcox & Arnstein, *The Age of Aristocracy*, chapters 1, 2 & 4  
Arnstein, *The Past Speaks*, chapter 1

3 (23 Sept.) **Eighteenth-Century Society and Culture**  
Willcox & Arnstein, chapters 3, 6, & 10  
*The Past Speaks*, chapters 2 & 4

4 (30 Sept.) **Empire and the American Revolution**  
Willcox & Arnstein, chapters 5, 7 & 8  
*The Past Speaks*, chapter 5

5 (7 Oct.) **The Industrial Revolution**  
Willcox & Arnstein, chapter 9  
*The Past Speaks*, chapter 7

### *Thanksgiving*

6 (21 Oct.) **The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars**  
Willcox & Arnstein, chapters 11 & 12  
*The Past Speaks*, chapter 6

7 (28 Oct.) **Parliamentary Reform and Popular Protest, 1832–1848**  
Willcox & Arnstein, chapter 13  
Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today*, chapters 1 & 3

8 (4 Nov.) **Mid-Victorian Society**  
Arnstein, chapters 2 & 5  
*The Past Speaks*, chapters 8 & 9

9 (11 Nov.) **Victorian Party Politics**  
Arnstein, chapters 4, 7 & 8

10 (18 Nov.) **Sports and Pastimes: Fox-hunting and Football**

11 (25 Nov.) **English Men: Homosociability, Homosexuality**

12 (2 Dec.) **Film: *Educating Rita***

### *Second Term*

13 (6 Jan.) **Late Victorian Economy and Society**  
Arnstein, chapter 11

14 (13 Jan.) **Late Victorian Imperialism**  
Arnstein, chapter 10  
*The Past Speaks*, chapter 12

15 (20 Jan.) **Ireland**  
Arnstein, chapter 9  
*The Past Speaks*, chapter 11

**16 (27 Jan.) Edwardian Britain and the Road to War**

Arnstein, chapters 12 & 13

*The Past Speaks*, chapter 13

**17 (3 Feb.) Britain and the First World War**

Arnstein, chapter 14

*The Past Speaks*, chapter 14

**18 (10 Feb.) Economy and Society Between the Wars**

Arnstein, chapters 15 & 16

*Reading week*

**19 (24 Feb.) The Second World War**

Arnstein, chapters 17 & 18

*The Past Speaks*, chapter 16

**20 (3 Mar.) Post-war Reconstruction and the Welfare State**

Arnstein, chapter 19

**21 (10 Mar.) Post-Imperial Britain, 1956–1979**

Arnstein, chapters 20 & 21

*The Past Speaks*, chapters 17 & 18

**22 (17 Mar.) Party Politics in the Late Twentieth Century**

Arnstein, chapters 22 & 23

*The Past Speaks*, chapter 19

**23 (24 Mar.) The Transformation(s) of Monarchy**

**24 (31 Mar.) Politics Out of Doors?: Riot across the Centuries**

**25 (7 Apr.) Film: *The History Boys***

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

### PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

#### MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or [rdashfo@uwo.ca](mailto:rdashfo@uwo.ca)