

20th Century British History

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: LNDN 3757

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: English

Course Description

This course surveys how Britain has responded to political, economic, social and cultural forces during the twentieth century. As we start to leave the first decade of the twenty-first century, it is a particularly good time to reassess the twentieth. Changing perceptions about the role of the state; the decline of empire; the effect of two world wars; economic strategies; the development of multiculturalism and the role of women are among the topics discussed. There will also be analysis of how the lives of ordinary British people have changed during the past century.

Course Objectives

- To understand some of the major themes which influenced the development of Britain during the twentieth century.
- To develop an historical approach towards the evaluation of primary and secondary source materials
- To understand more about life in Britain today through an exploration of historical developments.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- Identify historical problems
- Discriminate between primary and secondary historical sources
- Develop analytical skills in interpreting social, political, economic and cultural forces
- Be more aware of how historical factors have influenced British life today

Students should demonstrate:

- Responsibility and accountability for the completion of readings and assignments
- Self-confidence in their ability to work independently and with others
- An appreciation of differences both in terms of the course material and of their fellow students

Methodology

The class is conducted primarily through lectures. However class discussion is encouraged. Oral report presentations will provide an opportunity for groupwork. There are also several class visits.

Required Reading / Materials

There are a number of helpful books on twentieth century British history. I have listed readings from *Mastering Modern British History* (1998) by Norman Lowe and *Modern British History 1900-1999* by Michael Lynch because their format is easily accessible and they are relatively easy to purchase from local bookstores. In the CAPA library there are useful history and politics texts that can be borrowed. There will also be handouts for some classes.

Grading

CAPA Program & Instructor Policy

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. This means to gain full attendance you must attend all classes, you must not be late (unless with a valid reason) and you must be respectful of the professor and of other students by not talking/whispering in class when others are talking or presenting. Persistent lateness or lack of attention in class, i.e., reading materials other than the work assigned, may result in a low or zero grade for participation, and possible referral to the CAO. **No electronic equipment will be used in class**, including laptops, phones, ipods, cell phones, etc, unless you have written permission from the Chief Academic Officer prior to the course. If you are caught using any electronic equipment, you may receive a zero grade for participation.

Plagiarism will be dealt with very seriously, and will be referred to the Chief Academic Officer in London. You may receive an F for the course. If all work is not submitted by the end of the program, you will receive an F for the course.

Class Participation & Attendance

Attendance at all classes is mandated by CAPA; students who miss a class without permission from CAPA's Chief Academic Officer will have their grade for the course lowered. Informed participation is expected in every class, so students must have read the full assignment carefully before coming and be ready to discuss it if called upon. At any meeting there may be a brief, pass-fail two-minute quiz on some utterly obvious fact in the assigned reading. Students will also be asked to complete informal in-class writing assignments on a regular basis, which will require them to demonstrate their familiarity with the assigned materials. Students who repeatedly demonstrate unsatisfactory performance on these quizzes and exercises will be penalized in the participation grade.

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Oral Report	20%
Midterm	25%
Research Paper	25%
Final exam	30%
Overall grade	100%

Assessment Details

Britain in the Twentieth Century Oral Report

Assignment: Prepare a 5-10 minute oral report on one of the following topics. You may work with a partner. The purpose of this assignment is for you to research and communicate some aspect of twentieth century British history. This will enable you to understand a little more about Britain in the years c. 1900-1939.

Your report should:

- Identify your topic.
- Explore your topic in the context of its time period.
- Explain the significance of your topic.

In addition you must submit a summary of approximately 250 words. The reports will take place on 6 October. You must sign up for a topic by Tuesday 29 September.

Possible oral report topics:

- Suffragette violence
- Oswald Moseley
- Fabian Socialists

- Jarrow March
- 1908 London Olympics
- Abdication crisis
- 1936 Boy Scout Movement
- Balfour Doctrine J
- .M. Keynes
- 1916 Easter Rising
- Eliot's The Waste Land
- Haldane's army reforms
- British Empire Exhibition 1924
- Battle of the Somme 1916
- British cinema c. 1925-c.1939
- DORA
- Fashion in the 1920s
- WWI food rationing
- British appeasement
- Edwardian music hall
- Education between the wars
- Virginia Woolf
- Winnie the Pooh

Course Content

Unit 1

Introduction to the twentieth century.

Unit 2

"The Strange Death of Liberal England" 1900-1914.

- Read: Lowe, Chapter 21; Lynch Chapter 1

Unit 3

The road to World War I. How did war affect British life?

- Read: Lowe, pp.307-317, Chapter 22; Lynch, Chapter 2.

Unit 4

The changing post-war world. What was the result of political and economic experimentation? How did peoples' lives change in the 1920s?

- "The Road to Wigan Pier"-life in Britain in the 1930s.
- Read: Lowe, Chapters 22-25; Lynch, Chapter 3. ****Sign-up oral reports****

Unit 5

Oral reports

Unit 6

Appeasement and the coming of war. World War II- The Home Front. (Visit to Science Museum)

- Read: Lowe. Chapters 27-8; Lynch, Chapters 4&5.

Unit 7

Visit to the Imperial War Museum.

- ****Midterm due****

Unit 8

The Emergence of the Welfare State 1945-51. The development of consensus government 1951-64. The winds of change 1945-1964. What happened to Britain's empire in the post-war world?

- Read: Lowe, Chapter 29, pp.490-7, pp.527-553; Lynch, Chapter 6 & 9.

Unit 9

The Wilson years and the swinging sixties 1964-1970. Was there a real change in social values? The breakdown of consensus 1970-79.

- Read: Lowe, pp.497-500; Lynch, Chapter 7.

Unit 10

The Thatcher Years 1979-1990. Was this a time of reaction or revolution?

- Read: Lowe, pp. 567-83; Lynch Chapter 8

Unit 11

Visit to Docklands Museum

- ****Papers due****

Unit 12

Facing the Future 1990-1999. Catch-up and review.

- Read: Lowe, pp. 584-91; Lynch, Chapter 10.

Unit 12

Take home final examinations due. End of term activities.

Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).