History 3240: Twentieth-Century Britain

Professor Nadja Durbach

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Office hours: by appointment
Class meets: T, H: 9:10-10:30am SFEBB5160B

Course Description:

This course investigates twentieth-century British history from the decline of Victorian values to the rise of the New Labour Party. The twentieth century was a period of enormous change in Britain as it participated in two world wars, dealt with the economic and social effects of dismantling its empire, and witnessed radical shifts in gender, class, and race relations. This course will explore the political, social, and cultural history of this dynamic period through the use of primary source texts and contemporary films as historical documents.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

• Demonstrate an understanding of the events and ideas that shaped twentieth-century British society and culture
• Construct and articulate in written and oral form arguments about the nature of twentieth-century British values, beliefs, and social policies
• Analyze historical documents effectively

Teaching Methods and Required Reading:

This course is divided between lectures and class discussions. You are expected to attend all the lectures and to participate in discussion. If you are shy or an introvert, please make an appointment to see me so that I can help you strategize about participating in a way that is comfortable for you and enhances your learning experience without causing undo stress.

On days identified on the syllabus as Discussion periods, you will be responsible for the assigned reading in advance. Please read the material thoroughly and bring it with you to class. The films must also be seen in advance. They will not be screened in class. I will make all readings/films accessible through CANVAS.

The following books are available to purchase in the bookstore. Please buy them early as unpurchased copies are returned to the publisher after 5 weeks:

Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own
George Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier

All other required readings are available on CANVAS. Please photocopy or download these readings and bring them with you to class. Please notify me if anything has been scanned incorrectly or the internet links are broken.
Assignments and Grading Policy:

Your grade for this course will be based on:

- Class participation: includes attendance and participation in class discussions (10%)
- Two papers of 4-5 pages analyzing a primary source document (2 x 20%)
- A midterm (20%)
- A final exam (30%) **WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016 8:00AM-10:00AM**

I use the following grading scale:

- A=95-100%  A-=90-94%  B+=85-89%  B=80-84%  B-=75-79%  C+=70-74%  C=65-69%
- C-=60-64%  D=55-59%  D-=51-54%  F=50% or below

All assignments are due as indicated. **I will take one grade off for each day late:** a B+ paper that is one day late becomes a B. Weekends count as two days. **ALL PAPERS WILL BE SUMBITTED THROUGH CANVAS.** Please keep a copy of every assignment in case the original is uploaded incorrectly.

Plagiarism and Classroom Policies:

Please familiarize yourself with the University’s Student Code that can be found online at: [www.saff.utah.edu/code.html](http://www.saff.utah.edu/code.html). This code outlines your rights and responsibilities.

I will not tolerate any form of academic misconduct. If I discover that you have plagiarized, cheated, or misrepresented your work to me in any way, I reserve my right to fail you for the course or impose other sanctions. All cases of academic misconduct will be entered into the University’s database used to track student misconduct. The American Historical Association’s statement on plagiarism can be found at: [http://www.historians.org/pubs/free/ProfessionalStandards.cfm#Plagiarism](http://www.historians.org/pubs/free/ProfessionalStandards.cfm#Plagiarism)

Please turn your mobile phone off before entering the classroom.

Please do not surf the net during class time, even to find material relevant to the course. Computers and other mobile devices should be used for taking notes only.

Please do your best to arrive on time. If you need to leave before the end of the class period, please let me know in advance and sit near the door.

I do not circulate my notes to students. If you miss a class, please ask a classmate to borrow notes.

Occasionally I may need to contact you via email. I will do this through the CIS system, which uses your Umail account. Please make sure that you check this account regularly or that you forward it to the email address that you use most often.

My office hours are by appointment so that I can accommodate your busy schedules. If you would like to meet with me, please email me with your preferred times or consult me before or after class to find a time that works for both of us.
Accommodations:

Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that may conflict with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience. For more information, please consult the University of Utah’s Accommodations Policy: www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Schedule of Lectures and Discussion:

January 12: Introduction

January 14: Lecture: The New Woman
January 19: Discussion:
Virginia Woolf, A Room of One’s Own
Emmeline Pankhurst, “The Importance of the Vote”

January 21: Lecture: WWI and the New Man
January 26: Discussion:
Wilfred Owen, “Dulce et Decorum Est”
Wilfred Owen, “Disabled”
Siegfried Sassoon, “How to Die”
W.H. Rivers, “The Repression of War Experience”

January 28: Lecture: Interwar Britain
February 2: Discussion:
J.B. Priestley, selections from An English Journey
London Underground Maps 1923 and 1933
F.R. Leavis, “Mass Civilization and Minority Culture”

February 4: Lecture: The Depression
February 9: Discussion: George Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier Part 1

February 11: Lecture: WWII (FIRST PAPER DUE BY 11:59PM)
February 16: Discussion:
Video: “Rationing in Britain” (www.youtube.com/watch?v=09wNJ78S2GY)
Video: “Dig for Victory” (www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_Gs7Vik75k)
Mass-Observation, “The Tube Dwellers, 1943”
Tom Harrisson, “The London Blitz”
Winston Churchill, “Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat”
George Orwell, “England Your England”
February 18: Lecture: **The Welfare State**
February 23: Discussion:
The Beveridge Report
Labour Party, “Let Us Face the Future”

February 25: Lecture and Discussion: **Modernism and Post-War Britain**
A Tonic to the Nation: “Visitors and Abstainers”
Video: Festival in London from 1951 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhtHHY9H_50)

March 1: **MIDTERM: PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BLUEBOOK**

March 3: Lecture: **Decolonization**
March 8: Discussion:
Mohandas Gandhi, “Indian Home Rule,” 1909
Mohandas Gandhi, “Quit India Resolution,” 1942
British Government Statement, “Policy in India,” 1946

March 10: Lecture: **Immigration and Race Relations**
[March 13-20: Spring Break]
March 22: Discussion:
Enoch Powell, “Rivers of Blood Speech”
Video: Journey by a London Bus (www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBOcLnyMX-M)
“Correspondence on proposals to recruit West Indian workers”

March 24: Lecture: **The Permissive Society and the Birth of Youth Culture**
March 29: Discussion:
The Wolfenden Report
Philip Larkin, “Annum Mirabilis”
Film: *A Hard Day’s Night*

March 31: Lecture: **Irish Troubles**
April 5: Discussion:
Excerpt from Bobby Sands Diary
Selected writings of Gerry Adams
British Government, “What Happens When the Protest Ends?”

April 7: Lecture: **Thatcherism and its Discontents**
April 12: Discussion:
Film: *The Full Monty*
Margaret Thatcher, “Christianity and Wealth”
Conservative Party Manifesto, 1979

April 14: Lecture: **Cultures of Class**
April 19: Discussion:
Film: *42 Up*
George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* Part 2

April 21: Lecture: **New Labour’s Cool Britannia** (SECOND PAPER DUE BY 11:59PM)
April 26: Discussion:
Manifesto of the Labour Party, 1997
Robin Cook, “Celebrating Britishness” (a.k.a “The Chicken Tikka Masala Speech”)
Film: *The Queen*