

Department of Humanities
Dr. Christopher B. Davis
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Hours of Availability:
Tuesday and Wednesday, 11:30a-2:30p
Thursday, 11:30p-2:30p and 3p-4p



Modern Britain since 1760: Empire to Welfare State

Spring 2019
Tuesdays – 6:00p to 8:45p
Teleconference

Course Description

This course explores the history of modern Britain. Some of the topics and themes discussed include the industrial revolution, Victorian Britain, the global reach of the British Empire, the world wars, and the development of Britain in recent decades. We will be discussing that history chronologically overall, but each class period will have a specific topical emphasis.

Course Style

Activities will focus on readings, lectures, class discussion, and writing.

Importance of Communication

It is vital that students stay in communication with me as the course progresses. Most struggles students have in college courses can be resolved with simple conversations between student and teacher. If there are difficulties with concepts or assignments, it is not a cause for embarrassment or panic but an opportunity to improve skills and expand knowledge. Just get in touch. We will work through the issue.

I try to make communication as easy as possible and keep regular hours when I am available to talk. We can meet in person, talk on the phone, or video chat.

If you cannot meet during my hours of availability you can request another time when you are available. Please just email me to set up a time.

Resources

For each class I may provide texts and/or videos to watch. These materials are part of the learning process and are important to class periods and exams. All supplemental materials will be uploaded to the class page on Blackboard as PDFs and internet links.

The resources provided are for your use only for this class. That is why they are being provided via a password protected system like Blackboard. Do not illegally reproduce or distribute them.

Syllabus

Please keep your syllabus accessible for the entire semester. It will serve as a guide to not only class assignments but also to understand class expectations. If any major revisions have to be made to the class schedule during the semester, I will let you know when to obtain an updated syllabus from Blackboard.

Attendance

You are expected to attend class. Just reading materials or watching videos will not be enough to allow you to succeed on the tests. If you have to miss a class, be sure to work with another student to obtain good notes for that day. Do not fall into the trap skipping class if someone is not checking attendance. That is juvenile. Class discussions feed directly into exams. So skipping class usually results in poor exam grades.

Grading

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Teach-A-Topic | 100 points (50 each) |
| Writing Assignments | 200 points (100 each) |
| Exams | 300 points (100 each) |

Your semester grade will be the number of points you receive on the items listed above divided by the total number of points possible. For example, if you receive 540 points among the assignments that is 540 divided by 600 equals 0.9 or 90%. That is the minimum needed for an A in the class.

Note: There are no extra point opportunities in this course. It is best to keep up with your scores on assignments to know how you are doing.

Participation

This class will be interactive. I will give talks on certain subjects, but we will also discuss topics quite a lot. This is especially important in a class that only meets once a week. To stay engaged and enjoy the experience we all need to work together.

Teach-a-Topic

The goal of a teach-a-topic is to create a voice-over slide show video that helps fellow students learn more about the overall subject being studied in the course. You will create the video on a small sub-topic of the overall topic for the week.

Writing Assignments

This class will have two writing assignments—each five pages long. We will spend time in class to workshop ideas and structure. This will be in the weeks leading up to the assignment due date. You will be expected to turn in a rough draft so I can help you craft the last version. For the final product your work is your own, but I encourage you to take advantage of the resources the college has available to help you with writing.

Exams

The exams in this course will each cover approximately 1/3 of the material. Each test will be available on Blackboard one week before the due date/time. These are at-home tests that will focus on understanding rather than memorization. They are based on provided course materials and your class notes, so no outside sources are allowed. Please see the tests for instructions.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- 1) Develop the ability to understand history rather than simply memorize.
- 2) Communicate causes and effects clearly.
- 3) Have the ability to explain the “why” of history instead of just the “who, what, when, and where.”
- 4) Improve short-form writing skills in content, organization, style, and grammar.
- 5) Develop skills in assessing non-textbook material for how it connects to the course content.

ADA Statement

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick in Student Services, Room C-102, Uvalde campus. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Rio Grande College-Sul Ross State University, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Telephone: 830-279-3003. E-mail: kbiddick@sulross.edu.

Class Meetings and Assignments

Week 1

Tuesday – January 22

- **Introduction to British History**

Week 2

Tuesday – January 29

- **Industrial Revolution I**

Week 3

Tuesday – February 5

- **Industrial Revolution II**

Week 4

Tuesday – February 12

- **Victoria**

Week 5

Tuesday – February 19

- **Victorian Britain I**
 - Exam 1 on material for weeks 1-5 available after class.

Week 6

Tuesday – February 26

- **Victorian Britain II**
 - Exam 1 due before class

Week 7

Tuesday – March 5

- **World War I**

Week 8

Tuesday – March 12

- **Between the Wars – Challenges of Empire**

Week 9

Tuesday – March 19

- **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**

Week 10

Tuesday – March 26

- **World War II – part 1**

Week 11

Tuesday – April 2

- **World War II – part 2**
 - Exam 2 on material for weeks 6-12 available after class.

Week 12

Tuesday – April 9

- **Welfare State**
 - Exam 2 due before class

Week 13

Tuesday – April 16

- **Cold War and Decolonization – The Royal Family**

Week 14

Tuesday – April 23

- **Complex World of British Politics**

Week 15

Tuesday – April 30

- **British Cultural Exports**

Week 16

Tuesday – May 7

- **Recent Britain**
 - Last Day of Class
 - Exam 3 on material for weeks 12-16 available after class – Due December 6

Week 17

Tuesday – May 14

- Exam 3 on material from weeks 12-16 due on May 8th at noon.