

Department of Humanities  
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Hours of Availability:  
Monday and Wednesday, 2-4:30p  
Thursday, 2-6p



## Modern Britain

Spring 2020  
Thursdays – 6:00-8:45p  
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 specific topical emphasis.

### **Course Style**

Activities will focus on readings, lectures, class discussion, teaching topics, 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. And always feel free to email with questions.

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**

This course does not have required textbooks to purchase. 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 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	100 points (50 each)
Research Video	100 points
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 a larger topic that we discuss.

### **Writing Assignments**

This class will have two writing assignments—each three pages long. They will be based on television episodes and movies related to our material that you will watch outside of class. The goal will be to explore how the historical events are represented visually.

### **Research Video**

Instead of a research paper the goal with this assignment is to produce a video. It will be similar to a teach-a-topic, but the expectations are higher. It will involve similar research to what you would do for a research paper, but the final product will be visual and audible instead of written.

### **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.

### **Marketable Skills**

SLO 1—The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.

Marketable skills---Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.

Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.

Students can make written presentations to various audiences.

SLO 2—The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.

Marketable skills---Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.  
Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.  
Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

SLO 3—The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.

Marketable Skills---Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.  
Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.  
Students can manage the absorption of data.

### **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**

Thursday – Jan. 16

- **Introduction to British History**

### **Week 2**

Thursday – Jan. 23

- **Industrial Revolution – part 1**
  - Next Week: Teach-a-Topic I – Begin work on your topic and video
    - Assignment due Jan. 30

### **Week 3**

Thursday – Jan. 30

- **Industrial Revolution – part 2**
  - Teach-a-Topic I – due at noon
  - Next week: Research Video Project – Potential Topic List

#### Week 4

Thursday – Feb. 6

- **Victorian Britain – part 1**
  - Research Video Project – Potential Topic List – due at noon

#### Week 5

Thursday – Feb. 13

- **Victorian Britain – part 2**
  - Exam 1 on material for weeks 1-5 available after class.
    - Assignment due Feb. 20
  - Writing Assignment 1 – Begin watching episodes of *Downton Abbey*
    - Assignment due Feb. 27

#### Week 6

Thursday – Feb. 20

- **World War I**
  - Exam 1 - due at noon

#### Week 7

Thursday – Feb. 27

- **Between the Wars – Challenges of Empire**
  - Writing Assignment 1 – due at noon
  - Next Week: Research Video Project – Source List

#### Week 8

Thursday – Mar. 5

- **World War II – part 1**
  - Research Video Project – Source List – due at noon
  - Writing Assignment 2 – Begin watching *Darkest Hour* and *Dunkirk*
    - Assignment due Mar. 19

#### Week 9

Thursday – Mar. 12

- **Spring Break – No Class**

#### Week 10

Thursday – Mar. 19

- **World War II – part 2**
  - Writing Assignment 2 – due at noon

## Week 11

Thursday – Mar. 26

- **Welfare State**
  - Exam 2 on material for weeks 6-11 available after class.
    - Assignment due Apr. 2

## Week 12

Thursday – Apr. 2

- **Cold War and Decolonization**
  - Exam 2 – due at noon
  - Next Week: Teach-a-Topic 2 – Begin work on topic and video
    - Assignment due April 9

## Week 13

Thursday – Apr. 9

- **The Royal Family – Complex World of British Politics**
  - Teach-a-Topic 2 – due at noon

## Week 14

Thursday – Apr. 16

- **Scottish Referendum and Brexit**
  - Discussion of any challenges and solutions in Research Video Project

## Week 15

Thursday – Apr. 23

- **British Cultural Exports / What Does it Mean to be British?**
  - Exam 3 available after class
    - Assignment due Apr. 30 at noon.
  - Next week: Research Video Projects due

## Week 16

Thursday – Apr. 30

- **Presentations of Research Video Projects**
  - Exam 3 – due at noon
  - Research Video Projects – due at noon