The Political History
of
Great Britain in Literature

Tuesday & Wednesday
Lectures & discussions

9:00am-12:00pm

Thursday & Friday Excursions
9:00am-5:00pm

Summer Session II
August 3 - September 4

Global Seminar
UCSD, 2015

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DESCRIPTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

This course examines the political history of Great Britain in literature from Shakespeare to the Acts of Union (1707) and finally devolution in 2014. We will learn about major political figures, political events, ideas and social movements that shaped British history from the seventeenth to the present time through a number of key literary texts. In doing so, we will also explore how British politics and society underwent major changes in the course of significant economic, intellectual, and cultural transformations, in which literature played a key role in articulating such changes. While examining the history of British politics and its foreign policy, we will also gain an understanding about how key thinkers and political activists from Left and Right shaped the country from a United Kingdom into a devolved political entity. As we study the above themes and historical periods by visiting their local settings, we will also learn about the relationship between literature and politics and ways of understanding history through fictional and political works such as William Shakespeare, King Lear, and Mary Wollstonecraft’s A Vindications of the Rights of Woman and a Vindication of the Rights of Men.

The basic goals of the course are as follow:

1. To acquire basic themes in the study of British politics.

2. To gain an understanding of the complex histories of Britain from the seventeenth century to the present.

3. Understand the relationship between society and state in both Western European and global context.

4. To gain a familiarity with basic theoretical debates on various cultural theoretical themes.

5. To be able to make connections between the content of this course and current events.

6. To improve writing and critical skills.
PREREQUISITES:

No prior knowledge of any topic in particular is required for this course. This is, however, an upper-division course. So, students are expected to be prepared to do reading, writing and to engage in-depth critical thinking.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

2. William Shakespeare, *Richard II*
3. Dick Taverne, *Against the Tide: Politics and Beyond: A Memoir*
4. Course Reader

Where to purchase: Amazon.com and, for the Reader, Cal Copy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignments:

Assignments and grades will be determined as follows:

Museum Project 60%
Excursion Reviews 20%
Attendance and Participation 20%

Hours:

Students are expected to have 6 to 8 hours of lecture-discussion for the five-week course.

Reading:

It is important for each student to know that this upper-division course requires weekly reading. For each week you are required to read approximately 80-100 pages. You are expected to understand the readings and, accordingly, engage with the writing assignments.
EXAMS:

- **Museum Project:** you identify a historic site in London with a political significance and find a historic photo of the same place. Your task will be to juxtapose the contemporary and the older photo of the same place and write an essay (3000 words) on the political changes or continuities of the place under study. Your paper should be analytical but it can also be creative. You’re also expected to give a presentation on your project on the last day of class.

- **Excursion reviews:** comments, remarks, reflections and analysis on places you have visited during excursions. Remember to include the political aspects of the visited sites.

*Excursion reviews are due every Tuesday morning (except the first week)*

- Please email all your projects to the following email address:
  emailyourpapers@gmail.com

CLASS POLICY & GUIDELINES:

- **Attendance and Participation:**

  Active class participation for each week compromises 20% of your grade, so class discussion is a course requirement. Be prepared to talk about the reading material and lectures during class throughout the summer.

- **Late Papers:**

  Late papers will be penalized a half letter grade for each class that they are late. Please turn in your papers via email address:
• Plagiarism:
The major part of your course assignments and exams involves writings based on your assigned reading. So, make sure to cite your sources, either quoted directly or paraphrased, so to avoid plagiarism. See me if you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism.

• Assistance
In case of disability that may require accommodation, please see me on the first day of class.

**Schedule**

• Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00am–12:00pm.

• Thursday – Excursion only day, except on Friday August 12 and Friday August 21.

• There will be no scheduled activity on weekends or Mondays.

**Excursions**

The course includes visits to the Bank of England, National Portrait Gallery, British Museum, British Library, the Imperial War Museums, and the Churchill War Rooms. We will also visit the cities of Canterbury, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Cambridge and Oxford.

Please ensure to bring your Oyster card, schedule and student ID for all excursions and on-site lectures.
Schedule of Lectures

- Please note that lectures will take place at various London sites with historical relevance to the course. Please prepare to walk, sit, walk again or get wet. 😊

- Sites where lectures will be delivered are subject to change.

August 3-7 (up to 17th century)

August 4, Tuesday: Introduction to the course (21 Pembridge Gardens)

Magna Carta (1215) (Morning Lecture)

British library (Afternoon)

* Magna Carta (1215)
* The Canterbury Tales (1475)

- Bring your identification cards and a bill with your address on it. This is for the British Library card.

August 5, Wednesday: A United Kingdom: (1707)

Lecture 1: National Portrait Gallery (Morning)

Lecture 2: Borough Market (Noon; lunch)

Lecture 3: Golden Hind (Afternoon)

Lecture 4: The Globe Theater (Afternoon)
August 6, Thursday:

8:30am: meet at 5 Praed Street for Stratford-upon-Avon

1:15pm: Othello
Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre

August 7, Friday

Canterbury and the Cathedral (2pm entry)

August 10-14 (18th century)

August 11, Tuesday:

Lecture 1: University College London (Morning)
Lecture 2: British Museum (Afternoon)

August 12, Wednesday: The Houses of Parliament visit 10:45am
Buckingham Palace

August 13, Thursday: Tower of London

August 14, Friday: Oxford

August 17-21 (19th century)

August 18, Tuesday:

Lecture 1: Downy Street (Morning)
Lecture 2: 6 King's Road, Bedford Row (Morning)
Lecture 3: Kensal Green Cemetery (Afternoon)
August 19, Wednesday: Talk by Lord Dick Taverne (11:00am)

August 20, Thursday: Bank of England & Victoria and Albert Museum

August 21, Friday: Hampton Court Palace

August 24-28 (20th century)

August 25, Tuesday:

Movie: The Ruling Class (Morning)

Movie: Taste of Honey (Afternoon)

August 26, Wednesday:

Lecture 1: Russell Square (Morning)
Lecture 2: Tavistock Square (Morning)
Lecture 3: Bloomsbury (Morning)

Lecture 4: Carnaby Street (Afternoon)
Lecture 5: Marque Club (Afternoon)
Lecture 6: Abbey Road (Afternoon)

August 27, Thursday: Imperial War Museum & Churchill War Rooms

August 28, Friday: Cambridge

August & September 1-4 (20th and 21st centuries)

September 1, Tuesday: Meet at 1pm

Lecture 1: Parliament Square (Afternoon)
Lecture 2: 28 Hyde Park Gate (Afternoon)
Lecture 3: Chester Square at No. 73 (Afternoon)
September 2, Wednesday:

Lecture 1: Grosenvor Square  (Morning)
Lecture 2: 30 St Mary Axe  (Afternoon)

September 3, Thursday: Tate Modern Gallery

September 4, Friday: Museum of London

Farwell party!!!

Museum Projects are due!