

HISTORY 229

England and Ireland since 1500

Fall 2015
MW 12:30-1:45
Harkness 210

[DRAFT SYLLABUS IN PROGRESS—DO NOT SAVE OR PRINT]

This course is a general (social, political, cultural) survey of the tragically entangled histories of England and Ireland from Tudor succession to the present. It has no pre-requisites and is open to anyone with a genuine interest in the subject. Our format is a mix of open lectures and discussion sections supplemented by the occasional documentary film. I expect all students to attend all lectures, discussions, and films. If you will not be in class for any reason, please let me know why in advance. And everyone should feel free to seek me out in my office at any time in the semester for any reason (note my office hours, e-mail address, phone numbers, etc., below). My door is open.

Instructor:

Professor Stewart Weaver, Department of History
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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4 and by appointment

Course Requirements:

1. Consistent attendance and participation in class (10%)
2. Four short (1-2 page) responses to the assigned books (20%)
3. One group project/parliamentary debate (20%)
4. Two 5-6 page essays (30%)
5. One take-home final exam (20%)

Books:

The following **books** are required and available for purchase at the College Town Barnes and Noble Bookstore. They are also available inexpensively on Amazon, etc. No doubt they could be read on line also, but **I strongly encourage everyone to read these books the old fashioned way, i.e. on printed and bound paper.** Where assimilation and comprehension are concerned, I believe there is no substitute for this ancient practice. And for purposes of common discussion, it would be helpful if everyone had the same edition, as follows:

Thomas More, *Utopia* (Penguin Classics)
 Daniel Defoe, *Journal of the Plague Year* (Penguin Classics)
 Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (Oxford World Classics)
 George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (Mariner Books)

Academic Honesty: All students in this class will be expected to be familiar with and abide by the principles of academic honesty as laid down by the College of Arts and Science's academic honesty policy. For the full articulation of this policy (including the consequences of its violation), see <http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/>

Class Schedule

Week 1 Prologue

Aug. 31 Introduction & Overture

Sept. 2 The Tudor Succession, Henry VIII, and the English Reformation

Reading: Thomas Cranmer, "Letter on Henry VIII's Divorce" (1533); *The Act of Supremacy* (1534); Richard Pollard, "The Suppression of Glastonbury Abbey" (1539); Henry VIII, "Speech to Parliament" (1545)

Week 2 Thomas More's *Utopia*

Sept. 7 No Class—Labor Day

Sept. 9 Discussion Sections: *Utopia* (Response #1 due)

Reading: Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516)

Week 3 Empire and Revolution

Sept. 14 Elizabeth I and the Making of the First English Empire

Sept. 16 The Crisis of Parliaments: The English Civil War and Revolution

Reading:

Week 4 Restoration and Revolution

Sept. 21 The “Glorious Revolution”?

Sept. 23 Discussion Sections: *A Journal of the Plague Year* (Response #2 due)

Reading: Daniel Defoe, *A Journal of the Plague Year* (1722)

Week 5 Enlightenment and Ascendancy

Sept. 28 The British Enlightenment

Sept. 30 The Plantation of Ireland and the Protestant Ascendancy

Reading:

Week 6 Maria Edgeworth’s *Castle Rackrent*

Oct. 5 No Class—Fall Break

Oct. 7 Discussion Sections: *Castle Rackrent* (Response #3 due)

Reading: Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (1800)

Week 7 The Age of Revolution

Oct. 12 England, Ireland, and the French Revolution

Oct. 14 Imperial Meridian

Reading:

Week 8 Reform and Hunger

Oct. 19 The Age of Reform

Oct. 21 Famine and Emigration

Reading:

Week 9 The Victorian Age

Oct. 26 Gladstone and the Irish Nation

Oct. 28 The Strange Death of Liberal England

Reading:

Week 10 The Irish Question: A Parliamentary Debate

Nov. 2 Group Workshop

Nov. 4 Group Debate

Week 11 The First World War and After

Nov. 9 The First World War and the Easter Uprising

Nov. 11 The Troubles I (1919-1923)

Reading:**Week 12 Between the Wars**

Nov. 16 England and Ireland Between the Wars

Nov. 18 Discussion Sections: *The Road to Wigan Pier* (Response #4 due)**Reading:** George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937)**Week 13 England and Ireland and the Second World War**

Nov. 23 Their Finest Hour?

Nov. 25 No class: Thanksgiving Break

Reading:**Week 14 Postwar**

Nov. 30 Farewell the Trumpets: the Decline and Fall of the British Empire

Dec. 2 The Troubles II (1968-1998)

Week 15 Retrospect and Prospect

Dec. 7 Good Friday and After

Dec. 9 Conclusion: The Break-up of Britain?

Reading:

Friday, December 18: Take Home Final Essay Due