



LNDN HIST 3310
Britain in the Twentieth Century
CAPA LONDON PROGRAM

Course Description

As we have left the first decade of the twenty-first century, it is a particularly good time to reassess the twentieth. This course surveys how Britain has responded to political, social and cultural forces during the twentieth century. Changing perceptions about the role of the state; the decline of empire; the effect of two world wars; economic strategies; the development of multiculturalism and the role of women are among the topics discussed. There will also be an analysis of how the lives of ordinary British people have changed during the last century.

Course Aims/Objectives

- a. To understand some of the major themes which influenced the development of Britain during the twentieth century.
- b. To develop an historical approach towards the evaluation of primary and secondary source materials
- c. To understand more about life in Britain today through an exploration of historical developments.

Requirements and Prerequisites

This course is suitable for students without much historical background. However, it can also provide an opportunity for history majors and minors to develop their skills in an overseas environment.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- a. Identify historical problems
- b. Discriminate between primary and secondary historical sources
- c. Develop analytical skills in interpreting social, political, economic and cultural forces
- d. Be more aware of how historical factors have influenced British life today
- e. Understand from an historical perspective the development of diversity (including gender, ethnicity, class and sexuality) in Britain during the 20th century
- f. Be aware of the development of multiculturalism historically during the 20th century
- g. Understand more about the development of London during the 20th century and be able to apply personal experience to historical perspectives

Developmental outcomes

- a. Students should demonstrate:
- b. Responsibility and accountability for the completion of readings and assignments
- c. Self-confidence in their ability to work independently and with others
- d. An appreciation of differences both in terms of the course material and of their fellow students

Class Methodology

The class is conducted primarily through lectures. However class discussion is encouraged. Oral report presentations will provide an opportunity for group work. There are also several class visits.

Field Components

CAPA provides the unique opportunity to learn about the city through direct guided experience. Participation in field activities for this course is required. You will actively explore the Global City in

which you are currently living. Furthermore, you will have the chance to collect useful information that will be an invaluable resource for the essays/papers/projects assigned in this course.

The assigned field components are:

- a. There will be a mandatory question (10 points) on both the midterm and the final on a My Global Education event that you have participated in independently to the class. It must not be a field study that you have participated in for another class. This means you are required to attend two approved independent events / activities and be prepared to evaluate them in the context of Britain in the Twentieth Century.
- b. There are three field studies integrated in this course – to the Science Museum, the Imperial War Museum and the Museum of London. There will be a question on both your midterm and final that relates to the field studies. You have the choice whether or not to complete this question.
- c. Your 5-page paper for this course is a response paper and may be written on an independent field study. You must not duplicate any of your field study events.

Assessment/Grading Policy

Descriptor	Alpha	UK	US	GPA	Requirement
Excellent	A	75+	93+	4.0	Shows superior use and understanding of extensive literature beyond the textbook and notes
	A-	70-74	90-92	3.7	
Good	B+	66-69	87-89	3.3	Shows significant use and understanding of extensive literature beyond the textbook and notes
	B	63-65	83-86	3.0	
	B-	60-62	80-82	2.7	
Average	C+	56-59	77-79	2.3	Shows a clear understanding and some insight into the material in the textbook and notes, but not beyond
	C	53-55	73-76	2.0	
Below Average / Poor	C-	50-52	70-72	1.7	Fails to show a clear understanding or much insight into the material in the textbook and notes
	D+	46-49	67-69	1.3	
	D	40-45	60-66	0.7 - 1.0	
Fail	F	<40	<60	0	Shows little or no understanding of any of the material

Grade Breakdown and Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Task 1 – Oral Report – 15%

Due- Week 5

Learning outcomes - b, d

Task 2 – Midterm – 25%

Due – Week 8

Learning outcomes – a, b, c

Task 3 – Response Paper – 30%

Due – Week 11

Learning outcomes – b, c, d, e, f, g

Task 4 – Final Exam – 30%

Due – Week 14

Learning outcomes – a, b, c, d, e, f, g

Class participation is also considered to be very important and will be factored into your grade. Students must complete all required components for each assignment by the established deadlines. Failure to do so will result in a reduction in the course grade and may result in a grade of F.

Assignments

Assignment sheets for the journal and response paper follow. The midterm and final exam are composed of two 750 word essays each from a choice of five. There will also be a mandatory question on both the midterm and the final on a Field Study event that you have attended independently of the class. Both the midterm and final are take-home, open-book. For the midterm and final, much of the information may be taken from the readings, handouts and class lectures and discussions. Further

research will be needed for answering questions relating to field trips and questions involving primary sources.

Textbooks and Recommended Reading

There are a number of helpful books on twentieth-century British history. I have listed readings from *Mastering Modern British History* (1998) by Norman Lowe and *Modern British History 1900-1999* by Michael Lynch because their format is easily accessible and they are relatively easy to purchase from local bookstores. There is also a new text by Michael Lynch, *Britain 1945-2007* that can successfully be used for the second half of the course. In the CAPA library there are useful history and politics texts that can be used on site. There will also be handouts for some classes.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction to the twentieth century.

Week 2. "The Strange Death of Liberal England" 1900-1914.

Read: Lowe, Chapter 21; Lynch Chapter 1.

Week 3. The road to World War I. How did war affect British life?

Read: Lowe, pp.307-317, Chapter 22; Lynch, Chapter 2.

Week 4 - The changing post-war world. What was the result of political and economic experimentation? How did peoples' lives change in the 1920s? "The Road to Wigan Pier"-life in Britain in the 1930s.

Read: Lowe, Chapters 22-25; Lynch, Chapter 3.

Sign up for oral reports

Week 5. - Oral reports

Week 6. - Appeasement and the coming of war. World War II- The Home Front.

Read: Lowe. Chapters 27-8; Lynch, Chapters 4&5

Week 7. Midterm Break – no class

Week 8. Visit to the Imperial War Museum. **Midterms due**

Week 9. The Emergence of the Welfare State 1945-51. The development of consensus government 1951-64. The winds of change 1945-1964. What happened to Britain's empire in the post-war world?

Read: Lowe, Chapter 29, pp.490-7, pp.527-553; Lynch, Chapter 6 & 9.

Week 10. The Wilson Years and the Swinging Sixties 1964-1970. Was there a real change in social values? The breakdown of consensus 1970-79.

Read: Lowe, pp.497-500; Lynch, Chapter 7.

Week 11. The Thatcher Years 1979-1990. Was this a time of reaction or revolution?

Read: Lowe, pp. 567-83; Lynch Chapter 8 **Papers Due**

Week 12.- Facing the Future 1990-1999. Catch-up and review.

Read: Lowe, pp. 584-91, Lynch, Chapter 10.

Week 13. Visit to the Museum of London

Week 14. Take home final examinations due. End of term activities.

Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities

Attendance: CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class. Unauthorized absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade and potentially a failure for the course.

Missing classes for medical reasons: If you need to miss a class for medical reasons or for a family emergency, **you must send an e-mail** to let the Associate Director of Academic Affairs (ADAA) know at least one hour in advance of your class or meeting at the following e-mail: excused.absence@capa.org. Note that calling the CAPA Centre (0207 370 7389) is acceptable only if you do not temporarily have access to the internet. An e-mail is still required as quickly as you can get access to the internet again. You will need to provide evidence of the reason for your absence. Unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction. In the event of a missed class or field trip, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor and make up any missed assignments.

Class Participation: Students are expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time.

Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity: A high level of responsibility and academic honesty is expected. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will result in dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

Use of electronic equipment in class: All devices such as laptops, i-pods, i-pads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are **NOT** allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Associate Director of Academic Affairs at the beginning of Term.

Use of Electronic Translators: In Language courses students are NOT allowed to use electronic translators for writing texts in the target language: those submitting compositions and texts of whatever kind translated in such a fashion will receive a final F grade for the course.

Late Submission: Late submission of papers, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

Behavior during Examinations: During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action.

BRITAIN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: ORAL REPORT

Assignment: Prepare a 5-10 minute oral report on one of the following topics. You may work with a partner or a group of no more than three. The purpose of this assignment is for you to research and communicate some aspect of twentieth-century British history. This will enable you to understand a little more about Britain in the years c. 1900-1939.

Your report should:

1. Identify your topic.
2. Explore your topic in the context of its time period.
3. Explain the significance of your topic.

In addition you must submit a summary of approximately 250 words.

Possible oral report topics

Suffragette violence

Oswald Moseley

Fabian Socialists

Jarrow March

1908 London Olympics

Abdication Crisis 1936

Boy Scout Movement

Balfour Doctrine

J.M. Keynes

1916 Easter Rising

Eliot's *The Waste Land*

Haldane's army reforms

British Empire Exhibition 1924

Battle of the Somme 1916

British cinema c. 1925-c.1939

DORA

Fashion in the 1920s

WWI food rationing

British appeasement

Edwardian music hall

Education between the wars

Virginia Woolf

Winnie the Pooh

Britain in the Twentieth Century: Response Paper Assignment

Paper Requirement – one five-page paper (1,250 words in length). In this paper you are asked to write a critique of something that has interested you about England, Scotland, Wales or Ireland, which falls in the period c. 1890-2000 and which has relevance to the things we have studied in class. You could write about a place that you have visited, a book you have read, a movie or a play that you have seen, or an experience you have had. This is an opportunity for you to expand on themes as diversity, multiculturalism, urban development and gender issues. The My Education Programme is a good source of paper topics. A visit, lecture, film etc. could provide an excellent springboard for your paper. However, field study visits from other courses are not allowed. The paper is not a research paper, although you may use written material such as guidebooks and historical texts to support your observations. Any paper submitted that is purely a research paper will be docked marks. The idea is to ask a question pertaining to your topic and develop this thesis or argument in historical terms. In doing this you will have to write about your reaction to your subject and discuss it analytically. Your paper can be positive or negative, but you will have to demonstrate a critical eye and a sense of history.

How to write a critique or a review or a place or experience

1. You will need a brief introduction to the place or experience. You might mention some relevant facts that help to define your subject. You should introduce your question or argument here. This introduction should not be more than a few paragraphs.
2. In the middle part of your paper you should choose one or more aspects of your subject to write about. You might consider the architecture of a building; archaeological remains; literary memorabilia in a writer's house; interior decoration and its historical context; the activity which took place at your location and its relationship to British history; art which appears at your location and its historical importance and everyday activities as explained by your location. A lecture, film, book or play can also provide historical links that you can explore.
3. Your paper should conclude with your estimation of your place or experience and an answer to your original question. By all means be critical but be critical from an informed point of view. Your paper should show what you have learned from this course, both from class and your own footwork. Your personal observations are vital, but they should be educated; the work of informed visitors to Britain, not accidental tourists.
4. Remember that if you use another person's ideas or words, they need to be footnoted. This can be done within the text of the paper. A bibliography is also essential (including material from the Internet). **NB:** Internet material without a clear academic source is discouraged and encyclopedia entries like Wikipedia are not allowed without proper citations.