Course Title: HISTORY OF MODERN BRITAIN
Course Code: HST4364
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Sectional approach
Class Contact Hours: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.: Elective
Prerequisite(s): None
Co-requisite(s): None
Exclusion(s): None
Exemption Requirement(s): None

Brief Course Description
This course will survey the course of British history since 1688. In particular, we will discuss the creation of parliamentary government, the development of Britain as an industrial nation, and the rise and fall of Britain as a Great Power. It will focus on both domestic and global/imperial aspects of British history.

Aims
To assist students to understand the course of modern British history, both as a means of understanding contemporary British in its historical context and as a means of understanding selected aspects of modernity in a focused national context.

Learning Outcomes
After finishing the course, students will be able:
1) to understand the main contours of modern British history
2) to place modern British history within European, imperial, and global contexts
3) to have a deeper understanding of such themes as nationalism, industrialization, cross-cultural exchange, total war, class society, and democratic politics, seen within a focused national context

Indicative Content
I. British Constitutionalism and Reform (1688-1832)
   A. The Glorious Revolution and Parliamentary Supremacy
   B. Walpole and the Creation of Political Stability
   C. Popular Politics, the French Revolution, and Radicalism
   D. Reform, 1820s-1832
II. Britain and the World (1688-1850)
   A. The Age of Mercantilism
   B. 18th Century Diplomacy and War
   C. The Rise of the British East India Company
   D. The American Revolution
   E. Britain’s Engagement with China
III. An Industrial Revolution? (1750-1880)
   A. An Age of Manufactures
   B. Domestic Industry
   C. King Cotton
   D. The Standard of Living Debate
   E. Industrialization and British Society
   F. The Poor Law and the Chartists
IV. Victorian Society (1830-1900)
A. Evangelicalism and the Crisis of Faith
B. Political Economy and “Self-Help”
C. The Reformist Impulse
D. Gender and Society
E. An Age of Equipoise?
F. Disraeli, Gladstone, and the Creation of Modern British Politics
G. The Great Depression and the Victorian Crisis (1880s-1890s)

V. The Age of Empire (1857-1960)
A. The Indian Revolution
B. The New Imperialism
C. Technology of Imperialism
D. Popular Imperialism
E. Imperialism and Social Reform

VI. Labour’s Century (1906-2007)
A. Mass Electorate, Mass Society, Mass Culture
B. The Rise of a Welfare State
C. A Land Fit for Heroes and A People’s Peace: War and Society
D. The 1945 Labour Landslide and the Origins of Consensus
E. The Permissive Society
F. Race and Britishness
G. The Winter of Discontent
H. Margaret Thatcher and the end of consensus
I. New Labour—New consensus?

VII. Britain and the World in the twentieth century (1914-present)
A. Their finest hour: Britain in an age of total war
B. Indian Independence and the winds of change
C. Affluence or decline?
D. Britain and the European Union
E. Britain and the world in a postcolonial era

Teaching Method
This course will employ a combination of lectures and seminar discussions.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
1) Written essays analyzing primary and secondary sources.
2) In-class discussions focused on assigned readings.
3) Examination covering the major themes covered in the readings and lectures.

Assessment
Continuous Assessment 65%
Examination 35%

Required/ Essential Readings


Recommended/ Supplementary Readings


Jenkins, Geraint H., *A Concise History of Wales*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,
2007.