



BRITISH HISTORY
1815-1901

Fall 2008
HIS 554-01
MW(F) 1-1:50
CB 333

Dr. T. Whitlock
Office: POT 1773
Hours: 9:45-10:45
e-mail: hrhwhitlock@hotmail.com

I. General Course Objective

How did Britain become one of the most powerful nations in the world in the nineteenth century and what eroded that power by the twentieth? Why is the world still fascinated by all things “Victorian”? This course will explore these questions and give the student a more detailed knowledge of British politics, society, and culture in the nineteenth century. In our exploration of British history, we will highlight the Industrial Revolution and the rise of modern class society; the decline of the political importance of the monarchy; the rise of middle-class influence; the development of working-class and mass politics; Victorian society and morality, the impact of Liberalism and the spread of British Imperialism. Requirements for this course include **class participation**, two examinations, two critical book reviews based on primary and secondary texts and a comparative essay. *Students taking this course for graduate credit have added requirements detailed separately.*

II. Required Reading Material

Maria Edgeworth, The Absentee (a review option)

Friedrich Engels, The Condition of the Working Class in England (a review option)

Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

Paul Smith, Disraeli: A Brief Life (Cambridge University Press, 1999) (a review option)

Anna Clark, The Struggle for the Breeches : Gender and the Making of the British Working Class

George Dangerfield, The Strange Death of Liberal England (option B: see below)

Other Required Readings: Will be placed on reserve in POT or given as hand outs.

Assignments

Week 1:

Wed. 27 Aug.

Fri. 29.

INTRODUCTION TO BRITAIN IN THE 1700s:

Introduction

Life in the Countryside and Urban British Society

Week 2:

Mon. 1 Sept.

Mon. 3 Sept.

THE FACE OF CHANGE: URBAN BRITAIN

***No Class Meeting - LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**

Critiquing the Ruling Elites - DISCUSSION: Clark pages 13-41