

Brock University  
History 2F20

The Origins of Modern Britain 1485-1832

*(Disclaimer: other than the grading scheme and the lecture/seminar schedule, the course outline and seminar reading lists may be subject to change)*

Instructor: Dr. V. Thiessen

Office: GL 244

Office hours: Monday, 14:00-15:00 (2-3 p.m.), Thursday 14:00-15:00 (2-3 p.m.)

Email: contact through sakai

T.A.: Trudy Tattersall

Office: GL 240

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 17:00-18:00 (5-6)

Email: contact through sakai

Lectures will take place on Thursday of each week, from 7-9 p.m. (19:00-21:00), in Thistle 255. Two seminars will be held before the lecture, and one after the lecture: seminar 1 – MC 301, 9-10 p.m. (21:00-22:00); seminar 2 – MC 300, 6-7 p.m. (18:00-19:00); seminar 3 – MC 301 6-7 p.m. (18:00-19:00). We will hold our first seminar meetings in the second week of the course. Please note the personal seminar time slot and location that you will be attending. Take the opportunity to know the geography of the Thistle and Mac/Chown buildings well before the first seminars take place.

The first term of this course looks at the changes and continuities in British history from the accession of Henry Tudor to the English throne in 1485 to the Restoration of the Stuart kings after 1660 to about 1688. The second term will begin with the `Glorious Revolution (1689) and end with the Great Reform Act of 1832. We will discuss a broad range of developments in politics, “high and low” cultures, religious developments and attitudes, social and economic conditions, and the emergence of Imperial ambitions and successes during this period. We will also look at different methods and perspectives of historical investigation.

Your success in this course will depend on your willingness to read texts by various historians and discuss these readings with others during the weekly seminars. You will also be challenged to understand and evaluate primary sources with which historians work. Your participation in seminars is a vital component to gain better understandings of historical interpretations of the past. You will also be asked to engage with primary readings which form the basis of historical interpretations. It is your responsibility to read the material, to be present at all seminars, and to discuss the materials with your seminar partners. In the second term, you will also have the opportunity to co-lead a seminar. For seminar topics, please look at the Seminar Readings Schedule on sakai.

Examinations: you will have an examination during the examination period at the end of the winter term, and one more at the end of the winter term. The formats for the examinations will be discussed in class prior to the examination date.

Written assignments: you will complete two written assignments, one each term. The instructions for these assignments will be posted on sakai. Late papers will be penalized at 3% per working day. If you cannot hand in your paper to your seminar instructor for any medical or other reasonable extenuating circumstance, you **MUST** contact your seminar leader as soon as possible, and provide proper medical or other certification explaining your situation. Any work that is found to constitute plagiarism may receive a mark of zero and result in formal charges and academic discipline. For guidance on the issue of plagiarism, please consult Rampolla, ch. 6. For plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, please consult the 2013/14 undergraduate calendar (on line). The instructor reserves the right to use anti-plagiarism software, including Turnitin.com.

Students with special needs are encouraged to make use of Brock`s special needs offices for workshops, advisors and resources for in-class, examination, essay writing and personal challenges.

Course evaluation is based upon:

Seminar participation:	20%
Seminar leadership (second term):	5%
Initial paper:	15%
Second term paper:	20%
Progress Examination (Christmas exam):	20%
Final Examination:	20%

#### Required Texts

Lacey Baldwin Smith, *This Realm of England* (8<sup>th</sup> edition), first term

William B. Wilcox, Walter L. Arnstein, *Age of Aristocracy* (8<sup>th</sup> edition), second term

#### Recommended

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (7<sup>th</sup> edition, Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2012)

#### **First term written assignment**

Your first paper will deal with a seminar-related topic. You will select three essays from the selections available for those topics, and compare and contrast their approaches, findings and conclusions with respect to the topic you choose.

You will hand in the paper in the week of November 11-15, no later than noon on Friday, November 15.

1. The paper will be 5 pages long (about 1300-1500 words).
2. You will hand in an electronic copy of the paper as well as a hard copy (printed version), using the font Times New Roman (size 12).
3. The first page of your paper will consist of a title page. The title page will include:
  - a. Title of your topic/paper
  - b. Your name
  - c. The name of the course
  - d. The name of your seminar leader
  - e. Date of submission

4. Use footnotes or endnotes according to the Chicago style of referencing (see also Rampola regarding proper footnote/endnote formatting).
5. You will also provide a bibliography for the paper (again, see Rampolla for the proper bibliographic format).

You will receive a second reading list and assignment outline at the beginning of the second term.