

**HIST-UA 451:
Writing British History
Fridays, 9.30-12.15
KJCC 701**

Professor Ortolano
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KJCC (53 Washington Square South) 420
Office hours: Tuesdays 10-12

Course description

The Capstone Seminar represents the culmination of the history major at NYU. This course offers a structure through which advanced history majors will compose original research papers on any aspect of British history. The first part of the semester introduces several major source collections and discusses how historians have used them; the second half of the semester is devoted to student research, writing, and revision.

Evaluation

10% Participation
20% Response papers (4)
20% Proposal
50% Capstone paper

Course policies

1. Academic integrity:

Intellectual integrity is the university community's fundamental commitment. Plagiarism will be penalized to the fullest extent, without warning or exception. A helpful rule of thumb is to be polite: when you draw upon somebody's work or ideas, thank them in the form of a footnote. For further details on NYU policy, see:

➤ <http://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/academic-integrity.html>

2. Attendance:

You are permitted one absence without discussion; a second absence will be reflected in your participation; no student with three absences can pass the course. These policies take effect from the first meeting of the semester, regardless of when you personally enroll.

3. Writing:

All written assignments must be double-spaced, with one-inch margins and numbered pages, and (unless otherwise noted) submitted in hard copy. Late papers will be penalized at one full letter grade per day: a B+ paper, submitted the morning after it was due, will receive a C+. A paper that is more than 72 hours late will receive an F. All work must be properly documented, according to the Chicago Manual of Style, which is required for this course; for a guide to the most common citations, see:

➤ http://chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

4. Computers:

Any student who engages in electronic communication of any kind – texting, emailing, web browsing – during class will be regarded as absent.

5. Religious holidays:

NYU accommodates observances of religious holidays. To receive this accommodation, notify the instructor of any such absences during the first week of the term. Details on this policy may be found at:

- <http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html>

Required texts

1. Thomas William Heyck and Meredith Veldman. *The Peoples of the British Isles: From 1688 to the Present*. Fourth edition. Oxford University Press, 2016.
 2. Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual for Writers*. Eighth edition. University of Chicago Press, 2013.
- Both texts are available at the NYU bookstore on Broadway.
 - Please bring copies of each week's readings (printed or electronic) with you to class.
 - An invaluable resource for this course is the website created by History's subject librarian, Dr. Andrew Lee: <https://guides.nyu.edu/gb/1688>
 - * = Reading made available through NYU Classes.

Week 1, Sept. 7**Independent reading**

- No class meeting.
- Read the three student essays for next week.

Week 2, Sept. 14**What is an essay?**

- Discussion of *Brimsek, *Hanin, *Housden.
- Letters from past students (in-class exercise).

Week 3, Sept. 21**Working with Digital Sources: The American Revolution**

- *Tim Hitchcock, "Confronting the Digital" (2013); *Andrew Prescott, "I'd Rather Be a Librarian" (2014); *Ludmilla Jordanova, "Historical Vision in a Digital Age" (2014).
- Heyck & Veldman, 169-188.

- *Eliga Gould, “The Atlantic Debate over Colonial Taxation” (2000).
- “Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO),” available under “Subscription Databases,” <https://guides.nyu.edu/gb/1688>.

Week 4, Sept. 28

Library tour

- Class meets *at 10am* in the usual classroom (KJCC 701).
- Led by Dr. Andrew Lee, Librarian for History and Politics, Bobst Library.

Week 5, Oct. 5

Framing Historical Questions: Slavery and the Making of Modern Britain

- *Philippa Levine, “Slaves, Merchants, and Trade” (2007).
- *Hall *et al.*, “Introduction,” *Legacies of British Slave-Ownership* (2014).
- *Katie Donington, “Slavery, Family, Commerce, and the Making of the Hibbert Family” (2014).
- “Legacies of British Slave-Ownership,” <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>.
- “Oxford Dictionary of National Biography,” available under “Subscription Databases,” <https://guides.nyu.edu/gb/1688>.

Week 6, Oct. 12

Engaging with Historiography: The British Empire at Home

- Heyck & Veldman, 383-405.
- *Bernard Porter, *The Absent-Minded Imperialists*, “Preface” + “Empire and Society” (2004).
- *Dane Kennedy, Review of Porter, *H-Albion* (2005).
- “Empire Online,” available under “Subscription Databases,” <https://guides.nyu.edu/gb/1688>.

Week 7, Oct. 19

From Sources to Stories: Ordinary Lives during the Second World War

- Heyck & Veldman, 623-648.
- James Hinton, *Nine Wartime Lives: Mass Observation and the Making of the Modern Self* (2010), **“Introduction”* + *“Nella Last: Nation before Husband,”* available online via Bobst.
- “Mass Observation,” tab available under <https://guides.nyu.edu/gb/1688>.

Week 8, Oct. 26

Project proposals due

- No class meeting.
- Proposals due via email.

Week 9, Nov. 2

Individual meetings

- My appointment in KJCC 420: _____

Week 10, Nov. 9

Independent writing

- Office hours during class time.

Week 11, Nov. 16

Independent writing

- Brief meeting to discuss the upcoming workshops.
- Office hours during the remainder of class time.

Week 12, Nov. 30

Peer workshop I

Week 13, Dec. 7

Peer workshop II

Week 14, Dec. 14

Capstone papers due (along with your letter to a future student).