

BRITAIN IN THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

HIS 235; Fall 2021
HSSC N3118
Mon, Wed, & Fri 3-3:50pm

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Fall Office Hours:
Tue: 10-11:30am,
Thur: 1-2:30pm
& by appointment

Virtual office hours: Wed, 10-11:30am

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the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, focusing on how the modern British state, social and economic organization, and cultural identities developed in a global context. Such a focus entails not only examining how Britain exported its institutions abroad, but also how British society was itself “made” by contact with other cultures around the globe.

Another important theme of the course revolves around the importance (and challenge of) thinking in spatial terms about the history of 18th-century Britain, in particular, and any society, more broadly. Since Grinnell does not have a geography department, I use this course as an opportunity to introduce some of the concepts, questions, and perspectives that students would encounter if they were taking a course from a historical or cultural geographer. We will be exploring, therefore, how how particular spatial dynamics and cultural settings often play a key role in shaping the kind of historical action and change that unfold within them. This set of issues will become even more prominent in the second half of the semester, and will inform students’ final research project for the course.

Course Requirements

Course Material:

You do not need to purchase any textbooks or course readings. All the require (o)]xdi3 (n)4 irtor the

Writing, Reading, and Speaking Center

CLASS SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

- First Short Essay due 5pm, Monday Sept 13th

- Wed (Sept. 15th): **Bureaucratic Webs**
 Reading Due: Miles Ogborn, “Excise Geographies.”
- Fri (Sept. 17th): **Vulnerabilities**
 Reading Due: Linda Colley, *Captives: Britain, Empire, and the World, 1600-1850*, 1-12, 17-8, 23-32, 43-54, 65-72.
- Mon (Sept. 20th): **Buying into the Empire**
 Reading Due: H.V. Bowen, *Elites, Enterprise, and the Making of the British Overseas Empire*, excerpts.
- Wed (Sept. 22nd): **The Mindset of Mercantilism**
 Reading Due: Malachy Postlethwayt, *The African Trade* (1745).
 Postlethwayt, *Universal Dictionary of Trade and Commerce* (1774).
- Fri (Sept. 24th): **The British-Atlantic Slave Trade**
 Reading Due: David Richardson, “The British Empire and the Atlantic Slave Trade.”
- 2 Td[3 Td[AoT **Sept 22 (nk B3 (de)] R)-25na Reading Due:**

Week 7 Equiano's World (cont.)

Mon (Oct. 4th): **In-Class Midterm**

Wed (Oct. 6th): **Slavery and War: Equiano's Maritime World**

Reading Due: Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, ch. 3-4.

Fri (Oct. 8th): **The Plantation Complex in the West Indies**

Reading Due: Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, ch. 5.

Week 8 Equiano's World (cont.)

Mon (Oct. 11th): **Navigating the Worlds of Commerce & Unfreedom**

Reading Due: Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, ch. 6-8.

Wed (Oct. 13th): **Worlds of Enlightenment**

Fri (Nov 12th): **Domestic Life**
 Reading Due: Amanda Vickery, *Behind Closed Doors: At Home in Georgian England* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), excerpts.

Mon (Nov 15th): **Gendered Spheres**
 Reading Due: Lisa Cody, "The politics of reproduction: From midwives' alternative public sphere to the public spectacle of man-midwifery," *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 32, no. 4 (1999): 477-495.

Wed (Nov 17th): **Women and the Enlightenment**
 Reading Due: Porter, *The Untold Story of the British Enlightenment*, ch. 14.
 ECCO Exercise

Fri (Nov 19th): **Print Culture (Class will be held in Special Collections, Burling Library)**
 Reading Due: Brewer, *The Pleasures of the Imagination: English Culture in the Eighteenth Century* (London & New York: Routledge, 1997), ch. 4.
 Optional: Lucia Dacome, "Noting the Mind: Commonplace Books and the Pursuit of the Self in Eighteenth-Century Britain," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 65, no. 4 (2004): 603–25.

Mon (Nov 22nd): **13 9 03 2.89 0 (f)2201 (f)3250 (L)3**

Week 14

- Mon (Nov 29th): **The Politics of Connoisseurship in South Asia**
Reading Due: Maya Jasanoff, "Collectors of Empire: Objects, Conquests and Imperial Self-Fashioning," *Past & Present* 184 (2004), 109-135.
- Wed (Dec 1st): **Navigating the World of Goods**
Reading Due: Thomas Bridge, *The Adventures of a Bank-Note...* (1771).
- Fri (Dec 3rd): **Religion in an Age of Reason**
Reading Due: Document Set

- Mon (Dec 6th): **American and French Revolutions**
- Wed (Dec 8th): **India and the Birth of the Second British Empire**
- Fri (Dec 10th): **The Industrial Revolution**

Final Project Due Tuesday, December 14th (7pm)