

History Writing in Britain and Ireland, 1820 - 1920

Course Outline and General Reading

The nineteenth century marked the high-tide of historical writing in Britain's public culture. By the 1850s the historian as moral philosopher, as political scientist, as cultural critic and as prophet of the future was everywhere celebrated, and large works of history rivalled popular novels on publishers' best selling lists. At the same time the study of history, once despised in the universities as mere dilettantism, was rapidly establishing itself as a respectable academic discipline, and by the end of the century the methods of research, standards of accuracy, forms of publishing and organising institutions of the modern historical profession had been firmly established.

Similar tendencies were discernible in Ireland in the early decades of the nineteenth century. But by the second half of the century a serious divergence had arisen over the nature and purpose of historical research between Ireland and Britain. In the former the political and cultural critics and free-lance men of letters writing for a broad popular audience with overt (and often opposed) political and ideological purposes continued to dominate while historical research in the universities languished. But in Britain the university historians burrowing in the archives and writing generally for their peers steadily asserted their ascendancy as the authoritative practitioners of history. And, as political, and cultural relations between the two countries began rapidly to deteriorate in the early years of the twentieth century, so two very different conceptions of the value of history began to assume an important role at the heart of this process of separation.

This course seeks to trace the course of History's history in Britain and Ireland through a variety of avenues. The careers and works of the great representatives of both countries- Macaulay, Carlyle and Froude Stubbs, Acton, Maitland and Gardiner in England, and

Taaffe, Ferguson, Prendergast, Lecky, Gilbert, Bagwell, Orpen MacNeill on the other – will be examined. The structures and contexts of research, teaching and publication will be explored. And a critical analysis of the great themes of the leading historical works – the Norman Conquest, the Reformation, Cromwell, Empire, and the running sore of Ireland – will reveal the degree to which contemporary ideological preoccupations influenced supposedly detached historical interpretations .

Course Outline

Week One: Lecture: Perspectives, problems and procedures in the study of British and Irish literary culture in the nineteenth century.

Week Two: Lecture: Cultural contexts and political conflicts: the late Enlightenment and its Critics

Seminar: The early Historians of '98: Musgrave and Madden

Week Three: Lecture: Conditions of literary production and distribution: the frameworks of writing, publishing and reading in Britain in the first half of the nineteenth century

Seminar: Heavy-weight journals: *The Edinburgh Review*, *The Quarterly Review*, *Blackwood's* and *Frazer's*

Week Four: Lecture: 'The Whig Interpretation of history': Ferguson, Mackintosh, Hallam and Macaulay

Seminar: Thomas Babington Macaulay's *History of England*

Week Five: Lecture: Romantic History: Coleridge, Scott, Carlyle, Mitchel

Seminar: Thomas Carlyle's *History of the French Revolution*

Week Six: Lecture: Sectarian History: Lingard Arnold, Milman and Froude

Seminar: James Anthony Froude's *History of England from the death of Wolsey to the defeat of the Armada*

Week Seven: Lecture: History for an English Nation: Sharon Turner, Freeman, Stubbs and Round

Seminar: The English in Ireland: Froude, Prendergast and Lecky

Week Eight: Lecture: History for a British Empire: Froude, Seely, Bryce

Seminar: J.R Seely's *The Expansion of England*

Week Nine: Lecture: Professionalisation: History in the Universities, old and new, 1850 – 1900

Seminar: The Cambridge History Tripos and the *Cambridge Modern History*

Week Ten: Lecture: Scholars versus Scholars: the struggle for history in Ireland

Seminar: Bagwell, Orpen, Sullivan, McNeill

Week Eleven: Lecture: The triumph of positivism and the defeat of idealism.

Seminar: Historians and the outbreak of World War I.

General reading

(More specific references to particular topics will be given during the course)

General reference:

Michael Bentley, *Companion to Historiography* (London, 1997)

Ernst Breisach, *Historiography, Ancient, Medieval and Modern* (Chicago, 1983, 1994)

John Cannon (ed) *The Blackwell Dictionary of Historians* (Oxford, 1988)

John Cannon (ed) *The Historian at work* (London, 1980)

Nineteenth Century Britain:

(a) General:

Derek Beales, *From Castlereagh to Gladstone, 1815 – 1885* (London,1970)

F.B Smith: *The Rise of democracy, 1760 – 1865*(London, 1980)

Richard Shannon, *The Crisis of Imperialism, 1865 – 1915* (London, 1976)

K.T Hoppen, *The Mid-Victorian Generation* (Oxford, 1980)

Harold Perkin, *The Origins of Modern English Society, 1780 – 1880* (London, 1968)

Harold Perkin, *The Rise of Professional Society: England since 1880* (London, 1989)

Asa Briggs, *Victorian People* (Harmondsworth, 1964)

G.F.A.Best *Mid-Victorian Britain 1871-75* (London, 1975)

(b) Cultural and Intellectual:

Stephen Bann, *The Clothing of Clio: A Study of the Representation of History in Nineteenth-Century Britain and France* (Cambridge, 1979)

W. L Burn, *The Age of Equipoise: a study of the mid-Victorian generation* (London, 1964)

Stefan Collini: *Public Moralists: Political Thought and Intellectual life in Britain, 1850 – 1930* (Oxford, 1992)

Stefan Collini; Donald Winch; John Burrow, *That Noble Science of Politics: A Study in Nineteenth-Century Intellectual History* (Cambridge, 1978)

Philip Davis, *The Victorians* (Oxford, 2002)

Adrian Desmond, *Archetypes and Ancestors: Palaeontology in Victorian London, 1850-1875*

T, W Heyck, *The transformation of intellectual life in Victorian England* (London, 1982)

W.E Houghton, *The Victorian Frame of Mind* (New Haven, 1957, 1964)

Humphrey House, *The Dickens World* (Oxford. 1941)

Sheldon Rothblatt, *The revolution of the dons: Cambridge and society in Victorian England* (London, 1968)

Geoffrey Tillotson, *A View of Victorian Literature* (Oxford, 1962)

Raymond Williams, *Culture and Society in England, 1750 – 1950*
(Harmondsworth, 1961)

G.M Young: *Victorian England: Portrait of an Age* (Oxford, 1969).

(c) Historians and Historiography :

Michael Bentley, *Modernizing England's Past: English Historiography in the Age of Modernism, 1870-1970* (Cambridge, 2006).

P.B.M Blaas, *Continuity and Anachronism: Parliamentary and Constitutional developments in Whig Historiography and the Anti-Whig reaction between 1890 and 1930* (The Hague, 1978).

Ciaran Brady, *Interpreting Irish History: the debate on historical revisionism*
(Dublin, 1994)

Ciaran Brady, ‘Arrested development: competing histories and the. formation of the Irish historical profession, 1801–1938’ in Tibor Frank and Frank Hadler (eds), *Disputed territories and shared pasts: overlapping national histories in Modern Europe*, (London, 2011)

Anthony Brundage, *The people’s historian: John Richard Green and the writing of history in Victorian England* (Westport CT, 1994)

- J.W. Burrow, *A Liberal Descent: Victorian Historians and the English Past* (Cambridge, 1981)
- Herbert Butterfield, *The Whig interpretation of history*, (Harmondsworth, 1963)
- A D. Culler, *The Victorian Mirror of History* (New Haven, 1985)
- Peter Allen Dale, *The Victorian Critic and the idea of History* (Cambridge, Mass, 1977)
- Duncan Forbes, *The Liberal Anglican idea of history* (Cambridge,1952)
- G. P. Gooch, *History and Historians in the Nineteenth Century* (London, 1952)
- J. R. Hale, *The evolution of British historiography* (London, 1967)
- Ian Hesketh, *The Science of History in Victorian Britain: Making the Past Speak* (London, 2011)
- Leslie Howsam, *Past into Print: the publishing of history in Britain, 1850 – 1950* (London, 2009)
- Rosemary Jann, *The Art and Science of Victorian History* (Columbus, Ohio, 1985)
- James Kelly, *Sir Richard Musgrave, 1746 – 1818* (Dublin, 2009)
- J. P. Kenyon, *The History men: the historical profession in England since the Renaissance* (London, 1983)
- G. Kitson Clark, ‘The origin of the *Cambridge Modern History*’, *Cambridge Historical Journal* 8 (1945), 57 - 64
- Timothy Lang, *The Victorians and the Stuart heritage : interpretations of a discordant past* (Cambridge, 1995).
- Phillippa Levine: *The Amateur and the Professional: Antiquarians, Historians*

and Archaeologists in Victorian England, 1838 – 1886
(Cambridge, 1986)

Stuart Macintyre (et al) eds, *The Oxford History of Historical Writing: vol 4, 1800 – 1945* (Oxford, 2011)

Donal MacCartney, *W.E. H. Lecky, historian and politician, 1838 – 1903* (Dublin, 1994)

R.B. Mc Dowell, *Alice Stopford Green: a passionate historian* (Dublin, 1967)

Mark Nixon, *Samuel Rawson Gardiner and the idea of history* (Woodbridge, 2010)

Christopher Parker: *The English historical tradition since 1850*
(Edinburgh, 1990)

Christopher Parker, *The English idea of history from Coleridge to Collingwood*
(Aldershot, 2000)

Thomas Peardon, *The transition in English historical writing, 1760-1830* (New York, 1966)

Mark Salber Phillips, *Society and sentiment : genres of historical writing in Britain, 1740-1820* (Princeton, 2000)

Peter Slee, *Learning and a Liberal Education: the study of Modern History in the Universities of Oxford , Cambridge and Manchester, 1880 – 1914,* (Manchester, 1986)

Reba Soffer, *Discipline and Power: the University, History and the making of an English Elite* (Cambridge, 1994)

History , historians and conservatism in Britain and America: the Great War to Thatcher and Reagan (Oxford, 2009)

Benedict Stuchtey and Peter Wende (eds), *British and German Historiography, 1750 – 1950: traditions, perceptions and transfers* (Oxford, 2000)

Hugh Tulloch, *Acton* (London, 1988)

Blair Worden, *Roundhead reputations: the English civil wars and the passions of posterity* (London, 2001)

Deborah Wormell, *Sir John Seeley and the uses of history* (Cambridge, 1980)

Jeffrey Von Arx, *Progress and Pessimism: religion, politics and history in late nineteenth century Britain* (Cambridge Mass, 1985)

Course Requirements:

Attendance at tutorials is mandatory and subject to the same rules as apply for attendance at List I and List III courses. A presentation will be made in each of the seminars by one course attendee. This presentation may or may not (according to taste) be used as a basis of the required essay. One essay is required for credit in this course. The essay is due on Monday 26th March 2012.