



INTELLECTUAL LIFE IN C19TH BRITAIN

HIST31892

TUTOR: DR EMILY JONES

Course Overview

The nineteenth century has been long-established as a period of enormous social, economic, and political upheaval. This course will provide students with an overview of the transformation of *intellectual* life in nineteenth-century Britain as well as a more detailed sense of some of the dynamics of intellectual change in this period. It has been designed as a critical examination of key ideas and themes in the intellectual and cultural history of this period through primary and secondary material. The topics covered range from ideas about political identity and history, through conceptions of progress in natural and social science as well as anti-industrialization and economic commentary, to questions of gender, race, and democracy. This course will equip students with skills in reading, analysing, and contextualizing texts in the history of ideas.

Teaching Methods

1 x 3-hour Lecture/Seminar (or online equivalent, dependent on government advice in 2021) + Course Unit Office Hours equivalent to 1-hour per week

Seminar readings and primary source extracts will be delivered via Blackboard. Essays will be submitted, marked, and returned with feedback via Blackboard.

Indicative Readings

- S. Collini, *Public Moralists: Political Thought and Intellectual Life in Britain, 1850-1930* (1991)
- D. Bell, *The Idea of Greater Britain* (2011)
- K. Flint, *The Woman Reader, 1837-1914* (1995)
- E. Jones, *Edmund Burke and the Invention of Modern Conservatism, 1830-1914: An Intellectual History* (2017)
- H.S. Jones, *Victorian Political Thought* (2000)
- C. Kent, *Brains and Numbers: Elitism, Comtism, and Democracy in Mid-Victorian England* (1978)
- P. Mandler, ed., *Liberty and Authority in Victorian Britain* (2006)
- J. Secord, *Visions of Science: Books and Readers at the Dawn of the Victorian Age* (2004)
- G. Stedman Jones and G. Claeys, eds., *The Cambridge History of Nineteenth-Century Political Thought* (2011)

Assessment

- Source Analysis (1,500 words) (35%)
- Essay (3,000 words) (65%)

Primary sources and dissertation topics

The long nineteenth century is a brilliant period for research in intellectual history, primarily because of the huge range of sources that are now available online via digitised collections: British Periodicals Online, British Library Newspapers, JSTOR Nineteenth-Century Pamphlets, Hansard, to name just a few! Intellectual history does not mean simply 'big books' on moral and political philosophy, but includes thought in all guises: articles, newspapers, histories, religious sermons, lectures and speeches—not to mention literary and artistic productions. Ideas are produced using a variety of means, and an abundance of these are available to the nineteenth-century historian. Past students have written theses on fears of degeneration in c19th Britain; the development of ideas surrounding homosexuality, race and gender; the representation of the working-classes in 19th periodical writing; Chartism, popular radicalism and women's trade unionism across the c19th; the growth of 'humanitarianism' in the age of empires; and the legal history of political and social 'rights' campaigns of the c19th.