

# **HIST 20251 Winds of Change: Politics, Society and Culture in Britain, 1899-1990**

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**Manchester City fans c.1977.**

## **Course description**

In 1899 Queen Victoria ruled a vast overseas empire, well over half the population could not vote, the Independent Labour party had no MPs, sex between men was a crime and convicted murderers were hung. By 1990, the empire had fallen, all adult men and women had been enfranchised, the Labour party had over 225 MPs, including open homosexuals, and Peter Sutcliffe, the “Yorkshire Ripper”, was serving a life-sentence in Broadmoor. This course will examine these profound transformations, paying particular attention to political allegiance, government policy and social attitudes. Scholars have challenged the assumption that social class was the primary determinant of political allegiance, emphasizing how parties actively constructed political constituencies. Major reforms did not simply reflect changing social attitudes, but were shaped by party politics, ideologies, and individuals. This course will enable students to 1) assess the range of factors which influence political allegiance, including social class; 2) evaluate the range of factors which influence the formation of government policy; 3) analyse key historiographical

debates surrounding party politics, free trade, the enfranchisement of women, empire & immigration, and moral regulation; 4) write fluent, coherent essays; 5) engage creatively and effectively with online resources.

### **Indicative syllabus**

1. Welfare and The Vote, 1899-1914
2. World War One, 1914-1918
3. Conservative domination and the rise of Labour in inter-war Britain
4. The 'Hungry Thirties'
5. World War Two, 1939-45
6. The limits to the post-war consensus and the unravelling of Empire
7. Sexuality and the Permissive Society in the 1960s
8. Labour, protest and the Women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s
9. Race, Immigration & Anti-Racist Activism after 1945
10. The Thatcher Era, c.1975 – 1990
11. From Classes to Consumers: politics, culture and social change in the 1990s

### **Assessment**

There are two assessed tasks for this course:

- 1 x 2000 word essay (50% of the final mark)
- 1 x exam (answering 2 questions out of a possible 12, 50% of the final mark)

### **Background reading**

- Francesca Carnevali & Julie-Marie Strange (eds.), *Twentieth-Century Britain: Economic, Social and Cultural Change* (2007)
- Peter Clarke, *Hope and Glory: Britain, 1900-2000* (2004).
- Lesley Hall, *Sex, Gender and Social Change in Britain since 1880* (2000)
- Susan Kingsley Kent, *Gender and Power in Britain 1640-1990* (1999)
- Kenneth O. Morgan, *Britain since 1945: The People's Peace* (2001)
- Martin Pugh, *State and Society: a Social and Political History of Britain since 1870* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2008)
- James Vernon, *Modern Britain: 1750 to the Present* (2017)
- Pat Thane, *Divided Kingdom: A History of Britain, 1900 to the Present* (2018)
- Ina Zweiniger-Bargiolowska (ed.), *Women in Twentieth Century Britain: Economic, Social and Cultural Change* (2001)

**Zoom consultation Monday 12 June 2023, 10-11am**

**<https://zoom.us/j/95146521125>**

**Meeting ID: 951 4652 1125**