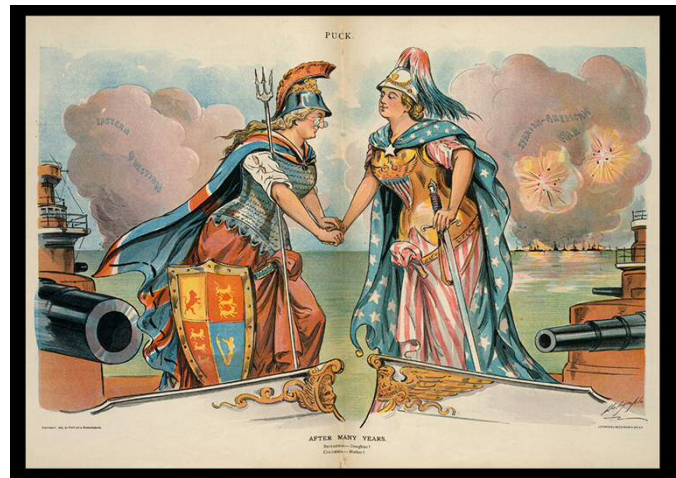


The Anglo-American Connection in the Long Nineteenth Century: Race, Reform and National Identity [Level 3]

Peter O'Connor



Popular depictions of Britain and the US tend to characterize their connection in terms of the 'special relationship.' Within the public imagination this attachment was forged in the fires of two world wars and secured via Anglo-American cultural cross-pollination as exemplified by the power of Hollywood in Britain or the ability of bands such as The Beatles 'break America.' The apparently natural closeness between the two nations, however, masks a turbulent earlier history during which the US attempted to forge a new identity while Britain came to terms with losing a colony. It was against this backdrop that each nation reformulated their sense of self.

This course unit encourages you to reassess the nature of Anglo-American relations. It does this by going back to the long nineteenth century and asking you to consider the ways that the shared sense of identity which underpinned the so-called 'special relationship' originally emerged. It looks at why Anglo-American reference points were so important in formulations of national identity during this era of monumental change in the gendered, racial and class parameters of the nation. It highlights the ways in which those advocating reform within one nation were able to frame their ideas with reference to the other and why this was such a common thing to do. It also demonstrates how those in power came to formulate an exclusive form of Anglo-American identity which would go on to underpin all aspects of the 20th century relationship.

Teaching strategy- 3 hr seminar session per week incorporating mini-lectures and discussion activities.

Assessment- Research plan/annotated bibliography (30%), research essay (70%).

Topics are likely to include-

1. The Revolutionary Atlantic
2. The Forgotten War of 1812
3. Who Reads an American Book? Developing a Literary Identity
4. American Hypocrisy: Slavery and Abolition in the Anglo-American World
5. 'Twisting the Lion's Tail' in Popular Political Culture
6. London to Seneca Falls: Women and the Public Sphere before the Civil War
7. Travel, Tourism and National Identity
8. Slavery, Cotton and Profit: Britain and the American Civil War
9. Anti-Lynching and Imperial Reform as an Anglo-American Phenomenon
10. Kin Beyond the Sea
11. Race, Sport and Rapprochement at the dawn of the 20th Century

Indicative Readings-

- 'Butler, Leslie, *Critical Americans: Victorian Intellectuals and Transatlantic Liberal Reform* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007)
- Campbell, Duncan Andrew, *Unlikely Allies: Britain, America and the Victorian Origins of the Special Relationship* (London: Hambledon Continuum, 2007)
- Fisch, Audrey, *American Slaves in Victorian England: Abolitionist Politics and Popular Culture Literature and Culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000)
- Haynes, Sam W., *Unfinished Revolution: The Early American Republic in a British World* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2010)
- Kilbride, Daniel, *Being American in Europe, 1750-1860* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013)
- Pace Vetter, Lisa, *The Political Thought of America's Founding Feminists* (New York: New York University Press, 2017)

Zoom consultation:

Thursday June 15, 10:00-11:00am

<https://zoom.us/j/8028946180>

Meeting ID: 802 894 6180