British Studies: The British Experience  

BRIT 382  

Spring 2019

Class time:  
Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 8.30 – 9.30 am  
Seminars: Monday and Wednesday 9.40 – 10.40 am or 11.00 am – 12 noon

**BRIT 382 Orientation (12.30pm): 28 August**  
**BRIT 382 Evening Seminars (6:30pm): 9 September; 7 October; 4 November**

Location:  
The Long Gallery (8.30 lectures)  
Seminars Rooms (9.40 and 11.00 seminar groups) TBA

Name of Faculty:  
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Contact details:  
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Office hours:  
Details are posted outside the British Faculty offices

Course Description

**BRIT 382: The British Experience from The Celts to the Present Day (6)**

This course, taught only at Harlaxton College and required of all students, is an interdisciplinary introduction to the broad cultural and historical developments within British society from the earliest times to the present. It explains the political development of the various nations that make up the British Isles and the changing nature of the often fractious relationship between those countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and (Northern) Ireland.

The central theme of the course is national identity; it is concerned with and seeks to explain the nature of Britain historically, politically, culturally, and intellectually. The course seeks to help students understand the protracted and difficult process by which the United Kingdom became unified. Elements of the course are integrated into the College’s wide range of extracurricular activities, including the travel program. Through this holistic approach students are encouraged to reflect on concepts of identity—national and individual—and the challenges that people and nations face in an increasingly globalized world. As part of the wider Harlaxton experience, the British Studies program helps students take an important step toward becoming responsible global citizens.

**BRIT 382 is appropriate for students who wish to earn 300-level credit. In addition to the BRIT 282 program of lectures, seminars, and course-related field trips, students who enrol in BRIT 382 will take three additional seminars and write a brief research paper on each of these.**

Credit Hour Policy Statement

This class meets the federal credit hour policy of:

- Combination of standard lecture and other activities – e.g. a combination of lecture + laboratory, or similar, for a total of 45-75 hours of supervised learning activities for each credit.
General Education Objective

This course meets the General Education requirements for:
- Outcome 2: Engagement with imaginative expressions of the human condition
- Outcome 3: Knowledge of human history and the historical context of knowledge
- Component A: Global diversity: International component
- Component E: Writing across the curriculum

Learning Objectives

Students taking British Studies (BRIT 382) will:

1) Acquire a clear understanding of Britain’s major historical and cultural trends.

2) Develop a range of intellectual and practical skills, including:
   - Inquiry/research and analysis
   - Critical and creative thinking
   - Written and oral communication
   - Information literacy
   - Teamwork and problem solving

3) Gain a greater sense of personal and social responsibility through intercultural knowledge and competence.

4) Develop a deeper and more sophisticated understanding of the core themes of the British Studies course.

*Proposals for a new British flag after the union of the crowns of England and Scotland (1603)*
Further Information about the Course

The British Studies course is unique to Harlaxton College. Specifically designed for all Harlaxton students, it is written and presented by the College’s British faculty and provides the centrepiece for Harlaxton’s rigorous academic curriculum. Worth six credits, it offers an interdisciplinary survey of British history and culture from earliest times to the present day. The course consists of twenty-eight twice-weekly lectures and seminars, and two field trips. It explains the political development of the various nations that make up the British Isles, and the changing nature of the often fractious relationship between those countries (England, Scotland, Wales, and [Northern] Ireland). Its central theme is national identity – it is concerned with and seeks to explain the nature of Britain historically, politically, culturally, and intellectually. By understanding the protracted and difficult process by which the United Kingdom became unified the course helps students better appreciate the nation/s in which they are currently living, and allows them to engage in contemporary debates about Britain today, devolution, and the future of that/those nations.

Aspects of the British Studies course are integrated into the College’s wide range of extra curricula activities, especially the travel program. Through this holistic approach students at Harlaxton are encouraged to reflect on concepts of identity - national and individual – as well as the challenges and opportunities presented by an increasingly globalized world. As part of the wider Harlaxton Experience, the British Studies program helps students take an important step towards becoming responsible global citizens.

In addition to the core British Studies course, each BRIT 382 student will attend three seminars and complete three short written assignments (of 1,000 words each). Students will be expected to prepare for seminars by examining relevant primary and secondary sources.

British Studies (BRIT 382) provides both an intellectual challenge and an opportunity for students to pursue a more detailed and analytical study of the key themes of Harlaxton’s core course. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, students will analyse the issue of British national identity by examining themes such as travel, language, ethnicity, the landscape, and communication.
## Schedule of topics

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

British Studies Lectures commence in the Long Gallery at 8:30am.
Seminars commence at either 9:40am or 11:00am.

- **Orientation lecture**: Introduction to Contemporary Britain

### Week One
1. **Monday, 26 August**  
   Seminar: Course Introduction  
   Ancient and Roman Britain

2. **Wednesday, 28 August**  
   Seminar 2: Invasions: Vikings and Normans  
   Invasion and Migration (c.410-c.1100)

### Week Two
3. **Monday, 2 September**  
   Seminar: Magna Carta: Kings, Nobles and Parliament  
   England, Normandy and the Angevin Empire (c.1100-1272)

4. **Wednesday, 4 September**  
   Seminar: Castles and Conflict in the British Isles  
   The Three Edwards (1272-1377)

### Week Three
5. **Monday, 9 September**  
   Seminar: The Canterbury Tales: England in the Later Middle Ages  
   The Wars of the Roses (1377-1485)

6. **Wednesday, 11 September**  
   Seminar: The Reformation  
   The Reformation and the Rise of Protestant Nationalism  
   **Quiz One**

- **Wednesday (afternoon) 11 September**  
  **FIELDTRIP: LINCOLN**

### Week Four
7. **Monday, 16 September**  
   Seminar: Images of Monarchy  
   The Tudor Realm

8. **Wednesday, 18 September**  
   Seminar: William Shakespeare  
   ‘O brave new world’: Culture and Society in the Age of Shakespeare  
   **Henry IV Part I**

### Week Five
9. **Monday, 23 September**  
   Seminar: Puritanism and Tyranny  
   The Bloody Union: Stuart Britain and Ireland  
   **Quiz Two**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Seminar</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10.</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday, 25 September</td>
<td>Review: Kingship and the Construction of National Identities</td>
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<td>Seminar: Examination Approaches and Techniques 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday, 25 September</strong></td>
<td>EXAMINATION ONE: 1:30-3:30 pm</td>
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**Week Six**

11. **Monday, 30 September**
    The Restoration and the Glorious Revolution

12. **Wednesday, 2 October**
    Politics, Empire, and the Creation of Great Britain

**Week Seven**

13. **Monday, 7 October**
    The Economic Revolution in 18th Century Britain

14. **Wednesday, 9 October (Morning)**
    Social and Cultural Change in the 18th Century

15. **Wednesday, 9 October (Afternoon)**
    Enlightenment, Romanticism and Radicalism

**Week Eight**

16. **Monday, 14 October**
    The Industrial Revolution

17. **Wednesday, 23 October**
    Sex, Gender and the Women’s Movement

**Week Nine**

18. **Monday, 21 October**
    Political Culture in the 19th Century

19. **Wednesday, 28 October**
    ‘An Empire on which the sun never Set’: Britain and Victorian Imperialism

**Week Ten**

20. **Monday, 28 October**
    Seminar: Imperialism and ‘race’ in 19th Century Britain

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 30 October</td>
<td>Seminar:</td>
<td>Review: The Construction of a British Examination Approaches and Identity</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, 30 October</strong> EXAMINATION TWO: 2.00-4.00pm</td>
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<td>Week Eleven</td>
<td>21. Monday, 4 November</td>
<td>Seminar: The Impact of the First World War</td>
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<td><strong>BRIT 382 Seminar 3 (6:30pm)</strong></td>
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<td>22. Wednesday, 6 November</td>
<td>Seminar: Culture and Society in Inter-War Britain</td>
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<td>Week Twelve</td>
<td>23. Monday, 11 November</td>
<td>Seminar: Britain and the Second World War: The Home Front</td>
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<td>24. Wednesday, 13 November</td>
<td>Seminar: The Beatles and British Art of the 1960s and 1970s</td>
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<td>FRIDAY, 15 November</td>
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<td><strong>FIELDTRIP: LONDON</strong></td>
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<td>Week Thirteen</td>
<td>25. Monday, 18 November</td>
<td>Seminar: Britain Divided?</td>
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<td>26. Wednesday, 20 November</td>
<td>Seminar: Britain and Ireland</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz Five</strong></td>
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<td>28. Wednesday, 27 November</td>
<td>Seminar: Icons of Britishness</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 4 December</td>
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<td><strong>EXAMINATION THREE: 9.30-11.30am</strong></td>
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Teaching Methods

Key Text(s):


These texts are included in your course fee and will be distributed on arrival at Harlaxton.

Course Structure

British Studies (BRIT 382) consists of 28 lectures and seminars, 4 additional evening classes each with an associated assignment, 5 quizzes, 2 field trips, 3 examinations, 1 research paper, and 1 individual student presentation.

The course is divided into three chronological phases each of which concludes with an examination. The first component deals with medieval and early modern Britain; the second with the development of the United Kingdom and the rise of the British Empire; the third section is concerned with the impact of the two World Wars, and covers Britain in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Course Components

1. Kingship and the Construction of National Identities (to c.1660)
2. Unification and the Construction of a British Identity (c.1660-c.1900)
3. A United Kingdom? (c.1900-present)

Field Trips

1. Roman and Medieval Lincoln. The city dates from c.50 A.D. and has extensive Roman remains; Lincoln’s castle dates from 1068, two years after the Norman victory at the battle of Hastings; and the cathedral at Lincoln (begun 1072) is one of the finest in the country.

2. London - St Paul’s Cathedral, the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery. This field trip considers the importance of the capital in creating a sense of national identity through the consideration of some iconic architectural and artistic examples.

Schedule of Assignments

- Quiz dates, examination dates and the due dates for term papers are listed in the Class Schedule
- Individual presentation dates: TBA
- BRIT 382 Research assignment 1 due: 23 September
- BRIT 382 Research assignment 2 due: 21 October
- BRIT 382 Research assignment 3 due: 18 November

In order to gain 300-level credit, all three BRIT 382 assignments must be submitted and the relevant seminars attended.
Assessment and Grading Criteria

**BRIT 382 comprises the following assignments:**

The **three** BRIT 382 written assignments count for **40%** of the total British Studies grade. Below is a breakdown of the assessment scheme.

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<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Three exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three 382 assignments (1000 words each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Grading Criteria**

Detailed rubrics for assessed work (examinations, term papers, individual presentations etc.) may be found in the British Studies Course Handbook. General grading criteria are as follows:

**A Excellent work:** showing flair, critical analysis & independent thinking.
Term Papers: excellent research (integration of a wide range of material and resources), exceptional clarity in writing, original and compelling argument.
Individual Presentations: excellent research showing breadth of reading, coherent, distinctive and imaginative presentation of material.
Examinations: excellent grasp and analysis of key and secondary issues; well written answers that consider the implications, assumptions and nuances of the question/s.
Seminar: consistently excellent contributions to class discussions.

**B Good Work:** evidence of consistent and intelligent engagement with the course.
Term Papers: thorough research (showing a detailed knowledge of relevant issues) that supports a clearly written, sustained argument.
Individual Presentations: engaging presentation of material based on thorough research.
Examinations: clear understanding of key issues shown by use of supporting evidence; well written responses to specific questions that reveal independent, critical judgment.
Seminar: consistently useful contributions to class discussion.

**C Reasonable Work:** evidence of engagement with major course issues and themes.
Term Papers: some good research (uneven coverage of relevant issues) but lacking sustained conceptual analysis and which uses reasonable prose.
Individual Presentations: some good research; reasonably structured and delivered.
Examinations: a fair grasp of course materials shown by a serious attempt to answer the questions posed but with an uneven coverage of key topics.
Seminar: some useful contributions to class discussions.

**D Poor Work:** partial / superficial coverage of key issues, lacking critical analysis, showing little evidence of research and serious misunderstanding of major topics.
Term Papers: inadequate research (superficial coverage of subject); poor or patchy argument, inconsistent prose (e.g. poor grammatical structures and use of colloquialisms).
Individual Presentations: reliance on non-academic sources, very limited engagement with key issues, poor delivery.
Examinations: very limited grasp of the major issues; poorly structured essays that fail to engage with several aspects of the question/s posed. 

Seminar: few contributions to class discussion; limited engagement with course materials. 

F Fail: major inaccuracies and omissions, no evidence of critical judgment, poorly delivered/constructed; very limited engagement with course materials. 

Quizzes
These simply test factual recall. They are graded on a simple scale: 10 out of 10 = A; 9 out of 10 = A- and so on.

Attendance Policy

Harlaxton College operates a mandatory attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets during a week. This means that for courses which meet three times a week students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points, for courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted and for courses meeting just once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty of a third-letter grade (e.g. A- to B+).

Students are responsible for the academic consequences of their failure to attend class. If any assessment (e.g. in-class test, exam, paper, presentation, etc.) is missed, there is no expectation or requirement that a faculty member will accept the work after it is due, provide an extension to a deadline, or offer an alternative assessment opportunity for a student with an unexcused absence.

In order to gain 300-level credit, all three BRIT 382 assignments must be submitted and the relevant seminars attended.

Drop/Add and Withdrawal Policy

Please note: Students cannot drop British Studies. This is a compulsory course which all students at Harlaxton College are required to take. Students can change the Section for which they are registered (BRIT 282, BRIT 382, BRIT 382H) by completing a Drop/Add form.

The deadline for Drop/Add is published in the Semester Guidance Handbook. Drop/Add forms are available from the Library. Drop/Add forms must be signed by the professor. Completed forms should be returned to the same place.

Please note: Students cannot withdraw from British Studies and remain at Harlaxton College.

The deadline for withdrawing from a class is published in the Semester Guidance Handbook. Forms are available from the College Secretary. Forms must be signed by the professor. Completed forms should be returned to the College Secretary.

All students must be registered for, and be continuously enrolled in, 12 credit hours of study to be eligible to study at Harlaxton and remain in the United Kingdom.
## Disability Policy

It is the policy of the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College) to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. University of Evansville students should contact the Office of Counselling and Health Education to seek help with this. Students from Partner Universities/Colleges should contact their own relevant student support office. For assistance whilst at Harlaxton students should contact the College Secretary whose office is located adjacent to the Principal’s office.

Written notification to faculty from the College Secretary is required for academic accommodations to be implemented.

## Honor Code

All students at the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College) agree to and are bound by the principles and practice of the honour code:

‘I understand that any work I submit for course credit will imply that I have adhered to this Academic Honor Code: I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.’

[https://www.evansville.edu/offices/deanstudents/downloads/honorcode.pdf](https://www.evansville.edu/offices/deanstudents/downloads/honorcode.pdf)