

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.81-145

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

..... DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Subject..... NEW COURSE PROPOSAL - HIST 415-3 -
..... VICTORIAN BRITAIN

.....
Date..... OCTOBER 15, 1981

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of October 6, 1981 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.81-145, the proposed new course HIST 415-3 - Victorian Britain.

Note: The memorandum from the Chairman of the Department describes the place of this course in overall offerings of the Department.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To.....Charles Hamilton.....
Chairman
Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee
Subject...HLST.415.Victorian Britain.....

From.....Hugh Johnston.....
Chairman
Department of History.....
Date...28 September 1981.....

This new course proposed by the History Department has been taught previously in the Department under a special topics rubric.

Because it has been a successful course, the Department now wishes to enter it as a regular calendar entry. Because we have already been teaching it, this course will require no additional faculty time, nor any new position, nor will it require any additional library expenditure.

The course will not change our normal scheduling format of courses - we will not schedule more courses in any one semester, but will re-arrange current courses to accommodate the offering of this course.



Hugh Johnston
Chairman

HJJ/s

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department History

Abbreviation Code: HIST Course Number: 415 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 0-3-0

Title of Course: Victorian Britain

Calendar Description of Course:

An examination of some of the major achievements, problems and controversies - economic, social, political, religious, imperial, cultural - in the world's first industrial society as it approached its maximum imperial extent and the zenith of its prosperity.

Nature of Course Seminar

Prerequisites (or special instructions): Students are strongly recommended to take one or more of the following history courses: 224, 226, 315, 316.

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved:

none

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? once every two years

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 82/3

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed course possible? A.B. Cunningham, E.R. Ingram Ellis, C. Hamilton, M.L. McDougall

3. Objectives of the Course To permit students to study in greater depth than a survey course permits a specialized period of British history in which the available historical literature and documentation is extensive.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty none

Staff none

Library the materials in the library are perfectly sufficient for this course, being particularly abundant on the Victorian age, and including much material of especial value in microfiche/microfilm form, e.g. newspapers, parliamentary debates, government reports, etc.

Audio Visual none

Space none

Equipment none

5. Approval

Date: 30 June 1981 September 29, 1981

Department Chairman

Dean

Chairman, SCUS

SCUS 73-34b:- (When completing this form, for instructions see Memorandum SCUS 73-34a. Attach course outline).

Many B.C. students imagine they have glimpsed the authentic atmosphere of Victorian England in the lounge of the Empress Hotel at tea-time, at which hour antique ladies who have slept the afternoon away after lunch in the Bengal Room rally to the rattle of cups, emerge from under their handkerchiefs, and take tea and cucumber sandwiches to the music of Willy Tickell's trio, squeaking among the potted palms.

The implications of this prejudiced vision are that all Victorians were not only always comfortable and idle, but always old as well; that their society was dull, their lives uneventful, their interest material, their church-going mindless, their morality hypocritical, their taste awful and their children hideously repressed. In their sepia photographs, it is true, they seem removed from us by much more than a century, the men pompous and the women distinguishable from the men because - as a rule - they didn't have whiskers.

It may, therefore, be all the harder for you to recognise that these people (whose great-grand-children you may be) created the then most powerful and influential nation on earth, ruled over a quarter of the earth's surface and a third of its people, and established the prototype of that industrial civilisation which we, among other societies, have inherited. They worried, at least as much as we do, about the problems, dangers and opportunities inherent in such a society. In many ways too, - and this is not an intentionally romantic view - the Victorians were more interesting and individualistic, more activist and purposeful, more eccentric and visionary, than our homogenised society allows us to be.

The Victorians were always arguing, and the course invites you to join them as they disagree about the many effects of two particular phenomena upon an old, vigorous and highly integrated society: firstly, the decisive shift from agriculture to industry as the basis of the national livelihood; secondly, the introduction of middle-class and popular democratic elements into a predominantly aristocratic constitution.

1. Required Books (all in paperback)

1. J.F.C. Harrison, The Early Victorians, 1832-51
2. G. Best, Mid-Victorian Britain, 1851-75
3. R. Shannon, The Crisis of Imperialism, 1865-1915
(all have good bibliographies and notes)

2. Books on Reference

1. J.L. Altholz, Victorian England, 1837-1901: a bibliography
2. G.R. Elton, Modern Historians on British History, a critical bibliography
3. English Historical Documents, ed., D.C. Douglas.
Vol. 11 - covers 1783-1832
Vol. 12 - covers 1833-1874
Vol. 13 - covers 1874-1914

3. Course plan

The format of the seminar will be (a) in the first hour, an informal lecture by me, usually illustrated with slides and with photocopies of original documents for students to keep, read and think about, (b) in the second hour, there will be a discussion of previously specified readings, from the required books and/or other books and articles, and (c) in the third, a seminar presentation by a member of the class.

4. Course Requirements

Obligatory attendance and informed participation in all seminars; a formal class presentation of 20 minutes duration; one long essay; half of grade for essay, half for seminar contribution.

5. Grading

For the final essay, fifty percent; for the seminar, fifty percent.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... Sheila Roberts, Secretary.....
..... Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee
Subject... New Course Proposal... HISTORY 415....

From..... Helen Gray.....
..... Senior Librarian for History & Pol. Sci.
Date..... 1981-10-02.....

The library is well equipped to support the proposed course, History 415, for it has had the resources to teach 19th century English history to the Ph.D. level for sometime.

The secondary materials are here in abundance as for the primary materials the library has:

The major political and social journals of the period,
The Times of London,
British parliamentary papers,
Debates from mid-country,
Diaries, memoirs, documents.

Added to these are the rich 19th century English literature collection as well as the work of the period and on it that reside in the philosophy, economics and political science classifications.

Helen Gray
Senior Librarian for Hist. & Pol.
October 2, 1981.