

HI399-30 Britain in the 1970s: Between New Society and No Society

23/24

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Mathew Thomson

Credit value

30

Module duration

22 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module examines modern British history through an in-depth focus on the single decade of the 1970s. The period has often been seen as time of social and national crisis, key in destabilisation of the post-war settlement and in bringing about a turn to right from 1979 under Margaret Thatcher. Others have pointed out that the decade saw levels of equality at an historical high and that the experience for many was of social security and liberation. Until recently, there was little historical work that took us into such recent realms of national history, but the period is fast emerging as a focus for exciting new historical research. Students will have the opportunity to engage with the emerging debates and to make their own contribution through original research.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

As an advanced final year option, this module aims to develop ability in analysis of primary sources including archival records, contemporary social scientific literature, novels, magazines, newspapers, television, and music. By focusing on a narrow period of time, students will develop in depth understanding of a range of issues relating to Britain in the 1970s. They will also be

introduced to an emerging historiography on the relationship between social science and everyday life.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

TERM 1: Representing the 1970s; Placing the 70s in Modern British History; Political Crisis or Renewal; Economic and Social Decline or Progress; the Permissive Society; Television; the Politics of 'Society'; University Students; Gender, Sex and Mental Health.

TERM 2: Industrial Relations and Consumerism; Children's Rights, Sex and Education; Race and Culture; the European Referendum; the Winter of Discontent; Emotional Life; Living Space; Economic Life.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of aspects of British history in the 1970s
- Critically analyse and evaluate a broad range of primary sources relating to British history in the 1970s
- Effectively communicate ideas, and make informed, coherent and persuasive arguments based on original primary sources, relating to the influence of social science within British society in the 1970s
- Critically review and consolidate theoretical, methodological, and historiographical ideas relating to British society in the 1970s

Indicative reading list

- Andy Beckett, *When the Lights Went Out: What Really Happened to Britain in the Seventies* (2009).
- *Children's Rights (1971-2)*
- Bernard Coard, *How the West Indian Child is Made Educationally Sub-Normal in the British School System* (1971)
- Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, *The Empire Strikes Back: Race and Racism in 70s Britain* (1982)
- Jonathan Coe, *The Rotter's Club* (2001) and *The Closed Circle* (2004).
- John Davis, 'The Inner London Education Authority and the William Tyndale Junior School Affair, 1974-1976', *Oxford Review of Education* (2002).
- Jenny Diski, *The Sixties* (2009).
- Stuart Hall and Tony Jefferson (eds.), *Resistance through Rituals* (1976).
- Celia Hughes, 'Young Socialist Men in 1960s Britain: Subjectivity and Sociability', *History Workshop Journal* (2012).
- Hari Kunzru, *My Revolutions* (2007).
- Jan O'Malley, *The Politics of Community Action: A Decade of Struggle in Notting Hill* (1977).

- Lucy Robinson, *Gay Men and the Left: How the Personal got Political* (2007).
- Raphael Samuel, *Theatres of Memory* (1996).
- Dominic Sandbrook, *Seasons in the Sun: The Battle for Britain, 1974-1979* (2012).
- Dominic Sandbrook, *State of Emergency: The Way We Were, Britain 1970-1974* (2010).
- Jon Savage, *England's Dreaming: Anarchy, Sex Pistols, Punk Rock and Beyond* (1992)
- Mike Savage, *Identities and Social Change in Britain since 1940: The Politics of Method* (2010).
- *New Society* (1962-)
- Norma Schulman, 'Conditions of our own making: An Intellectual History of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies at the University of Birmingham', *Canadian Journal of Communication* (1993)
- *Spare Rib* (1972-)
- Mathew Thomson, *Psychological Subjects: Identity, Culture and Health in Twentieth-Century Britain* (2006).
- Colin Ward (ed.), *Vandalism* (1973).
- John Welshman, 'Ideology, Social Science, and Public Policy: The Debate over Transmitted Deprivation', *Twentieth Century British History*, (2005).

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Tutorials	4 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	260 hours (87%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10

texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
Seminar Contribution	10%	
1500 word essay	10%	
3000 word source-based essay	40%	
3000 word essay	40%	

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback provided via Tabula; optional oral feedback in office hours.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL16 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- UENA-VQ33 Undergraduate English and History (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of VQ33 English and History (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of VQ33 English and History (with Intercalated year)
- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History

- Year 3 of V100 History
- Year 3 of V100 History
- Year 4 of UHIA-V101 Undergraduate History (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)