Using Periodicals as an Historical Source: The Victorian Press
History 6686
Monday 5:30-8
TLC 3205

Dr. Michael de Nie
TLC 3204
Office Hours: Monday 10-11, 1-4, Wednesday 10-11, 1-3, and by appointment
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This seminar will explore the major themes and methodologies of scholarship on the Victorian press. Students in the course will gain an understanding of the major issues in this scholarship as well as the best practices of using periodicals as an historical source in any research field. In addition to weekly discussion students will write and present an original 18-20 page research paper.

Learning Outcomes
Students in the class will conduct research, formulate and defend a historical argument, and demonstrate knowledge of historiography and its changes over time. These will be assessed in class discussion and the research paper.

Grade
Your grade in this course will be assessed as follows:

Class Participation 30%
Primary Source Presentation 10%
Final Presentation 20%
Research Paper 40%

Required Reading
Christopher Harvie, Nineteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction
Michael de Nie, The Eternal Paddy: Irish Identity and the British Press, 1798-1882
Mark Hampton, Visions of the Press in Britain, 1850-1950

Ingram Library Newspapers Guide - follow this link to the Ingram Library Newspapers Guide. Select the Historical Newspapers tab and scroll down to UK Newspapers

Students, please carefully review the following information. It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, and university accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Discussion Leaders
Over the course of the semester each student will serve once as discussion leader for the week, guiding the conversation on one of the readings (their choice).

**Primary Source Presentations**
On 26 February students will offer a brief (5-8) minute presentation and take questions on their research topic and a primary source that they will be using.

**Research Papers**
Students will write an original 18-20 page research paper on a topic related to or utilizing the Victorian press. Drafts of the papers will be peer workshopped on 9 and 16 April.

**Final Presentations**
On 23 and 30 April students will present their research in a formal 20 minute academic presentation.

**Course Schedule and Assignments:**

**Week One (1/8): Introduction**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (1/15)

**Week Two (1/22): Press History**

**Readings:**
Jeremy Black, “Continuity and Change in the British Press, 1750-1833”
Kevin Williams, *Read All About it! A history of the British Newspaper* (excerpts)
Alan Lee, *The Origins of the Popular Press* (excerpts)
Stephen Koss, *The Rise and Fall of the Political Press in Britain* (excerpts)
Lucy Brown, *Victorian News and Newspapers* (excerpts)
Ivan Asquith, “The structure, ownership, and control of the press, 1780-1855”
Alan Lee, “The structure, ownership, and control of the press, 1855-1914”

**Week Three (1/29): Methods / Public Opinion and the Press**

**Readings:**
Aled Jones, *Powers of the Press: Newspapers, Power and the Public in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (excerpts)
Lynn Pykett, “Reading the Periodical Press: Text and Context”
Margaret Beetham, “Toward a Theory of the Periodical as a Publishing Genre”
Edward Royle, “Newspapers and Periodicals in Historical Research”
Joel Wiener, “Sources for the Study of Newspapers”
Raymond Williams, “The press and popular culture: an historical perspective”
Kate Campbell, “Journalistic Discourses and the Construction of Modern Knowledge”
L.P. Curtis, *Jack the Ripper and the London Press* (excerpts)
W.T. Stead, “Government by Journalism”
Week Four (2/5): Journalism / The Press and Society
Readings:
Mark Hampton, *Visions of the Press in Britain* (entire book)
Mark Hampton, “Defining Journalists in Late-Nineteenth Century Britain”
Mark Hampton, “Liberalism, the Press, and the Construction of the Public Sphere: Theories of the Press in Britain, 1830-1914”
Jean Chalaby, *The Invention of Journalism* (excerpts)

Week Five (2/12): The British Press and Ireland
Readings:
Michael de Nie, *The Eternal Paddy* (entire book)
Leslie Williams “Bad Press: Thomas Campbell Foster and British Reportage on the Irish Famine 1845-1849”
L.P. Curtis, *Apes and Angels: The Irishman in Victorian Caricature* (excerpts)
Roy Foster, “Paddy and Mr. Punch”

Week Six (2/19): The Press and Empire
Readings:
John Mackenzie, “The press and the dominant ideology of empire”
David Finklestein and Douglas Peers, “‘A Great System of Circulation: Introducing India into the Nineteenth-Century Media”
Alex Nalbach, “‘The Software of Empire’: Telegraphic News Agencies and Imperial Publicity, 1865-1914”
Jennifer Regan, “‘We Could Be of Service to Other Suffering People’: Representations of India in the Irish Nationalist Press, c. 1857-1887”
Jill Bender, “Mutiny or freedom fight? The 1857 Indian Mutiny and the Irish Press”
Chandrika Kaul, *Reporting the Raj* (excerpts)
Michael de Nie, “Speed the Mahdi!: The Irish Press and Empire during the Sudan Conflict of 1883-1885”

Week Seven (2/26): Primary Source Presentations

Week Eight (3/5): The Comic Press
Readings:
Michael de Nie, “The Satirical Press”
Michael de Nie, “The Comic Press, Ireland, and Empire, 1882-1885”
Eleanor McNees, “*Punch* and the Pope: Three Decades of Anti-Catholic Caricature”
Anthony S. Wohl, “‘Dizzi-Ben-Dizzi’: Disraeli as Alien”
Julie Codell, “Imperial Differences and Culture Clashes in Victorian Periodicals' Visuals: The Case of *Punch*”
Tracy J.R. Collins, “Athletic Fashion, Punch, and the Creation of the New Woman”
Henry Miller, “The Problem with Punch”

**Week Nine (3/12): The Illustrated Press**
Peter Sinnema, *Dynamics of the Pictured Page* (excerpts)
Peter Sinnema, “Representing the Railway: Train Accidents and Trauma in the *Illustrated London News*”
Paul Fyfe, “Illustrating the Accident: Railways and the Catastrophic Picturesque in *The Illustrated London News*”
Virginia McKendry, “*The Illustrated London News* and the Invention of Tradition”

**Spring Break (3/19)**

**Week Ten (3/26): The New Journalism**
Readings:
Mark Hampton, “Representing the Public Sphere: The New Journalism and Its Historians”
Joel Wiener, “How new was the New Journalism?”
Christopher Morash, “Ghosts and Wires: The Telegraph and Irish Space”
W.T. Stead, “The Future of Journalism”
T.P. O’Connor, “The New Journalism”
Michelle Tusan, *Women Making News: Gender and Journalism in Modern Britain* (excerpts)

**Week Eleven (4/2): Transatlantic Connections**
Readings:
Joel Wiener, “Get the News! Get the News! Speed in Transatlantic Journalism, 1830-1914”
Joel Wiener, *The Americanization of the British Press, 1830-1914: Speed in the Age of Transatlantic Journalism* (excerpts)
Christopher Kent, “Matt Morgan and Transatlantic Illustrated Journalism”
Michael de Nie, “The London Press and the American Civil War”

**Week Twelve (4/9): Workshop**

**Week Thirteen (4/16): Workshop**

**Week Fourteen (4/23): Presentations**

**Week Fifteen (4/30): Presentations**