

**His 230**  
**Britain and Empire since 1688: Between Revolutions**

Tues/Thur, 9:45am-11:05

Satisfies: GLO, SBS [DEC: I]

Professor Kathleen Wilson

This course will explore the rise and fall of Britain and its empire as the world's preeminent political, industrial, intellectual and imperial power. Between the Glorious Revolution and the Industrial Revolution, the composite nation of Britain established a formidable overseas domain that took had bases on five continents and established itself as the model government of the Enlightenment, fueling global economic expansion, urbanization and industrialism that was exported across the globe. The twentieth century saw the zenith and decline of British power in the world and at home, as world wars, capitalist crisis and decolonization forced Britons to take up a different kind of revolution—a "socialist" revolution—that sought to give its citizens economic and social security "from the cradle to the grave," only to repudiate it in the second half of the century. These narratives of changing configurations of empire, class, race, gender and politics are the subject of our course, and will be explored through imaginative and historical literature and film.

Required Textbook: Susan Kingsley Kent, *A New History of Britain since 1688: Four Nations and an Empire* (Oxford, 2017). Other required readings will include primary documents both literary and political that will be posted on Brightspace. A mid-term, final and 5-6 page paper are required assignments, in addition to the reading and course attendance.