

HISTORY U25303
Rise and Fall – Naval Hegemony and Decline, 1815-1960
2018-2019

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Course Description:

Emerging from the Napoleonic Wars as the dominant naval power, the Royal Navy assumed a role of imperial protector and global policeman. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, however, Britain began to be challenged globally, and found itself at war twice in the twentieth century. The rise of the USA, and the decline of its empire meant that, although victorious in both World Wars, Britain's global power had disappeared soon after 1945. This module looks to understand how the navy fits into these wider trends, and the role it played in both peace and war. Using the collections of the naval museums, and those historic ships on our doorstep, including the first British ironclad, HMS Warrior, the course also looks at how technological change influenced its role, and how it changed the lives of those aboard.

Course Format:

Course seminar sessions will involve discussion of assigned readings, presentations by students on weekly topics, discussion papers, and a take home final exam. Attendance is mandatory and subject reading must be completed prior to each week's sessions. Students, through engagement with the historiographical material and scholarly debate, will develop a fundamental understanding of the key personages, subject watersheds, significant campaigns and operations, and the cultural history of the Royal Navy within the context of the period.

Course Texts:

Required:

The Oxford Illustrated History of the Royal Navy, ed., J. R. Hill (1995)
A History of the Royal Navy: Empire and Imperialism, Daniel Owen Spence (2015)
The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery, Paul Kennedy (1998 reprint)
Air Power and the Royal Navy, 1914-1945, Geoffrey Till (1979)
The Price of Admiralty, John Keegan (1988)
The Royal Navy since 1815, Eric Grove (2005)
Fisher's Face, or Getting to Know the Admiral, Jan Morris (1995)
Sir John Fisher's Naval Revolution, Nicholas Lambert (1999)
Churchill and the Admirals, Stephen Roskill (2004 reprint)
Naval Policy between the wars, 2 vols., Stephen Roskill (1968, & 1976)

Suggested:

The Development of British Naval Thinking, ed., Geoffrey Till (2006)
From the Dardanelles to Oran, 1915 – 1940, Arthur Marder (2015 reprint)
Castles of Steel, Robert K. Massie (2003)
White Ensign, The British Navy At War, 1939 – 1945, Stephen Roskill (1960)
Dreadnought to Daring, ed., Peter Hore (2012)
British Naval Aviation: The First 100 years, ed., Tim Benbow (2011)

Additional reading assignments will be based on materials available in the Library, and through online databases. Students should print all digital material for their files.

Course Assignments:

Utilizing the weekly reading guide, students will present twice on aspects of the assigned reading subjects, and answer questions from the instructor as well as the class, followed by general discussion. Students will submit discussion papers presenting their analysis and research on their presentation topics.

Examination

Students will have 48 hours to complete a two part take home final exam. Students will write responses to two questions selected from a predetermined list. Responses should typically range from 8 to 12 pages per question.

Components of the Final Grade

Class participation	20%
Presentations	20%
Term paper	20%
Final exam	40%

Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Block One, The Nineteenth Century: Globalization</u>	<u>Readings</u>
<p>Week One Sept. 8-11</p>	<p>The post-Napoleonic Settlement The Admiralty after the Napoleonic wars. (1815 – 1839) Congress of Vienna, naval policy of Peel and Duke of Wellington, Lessons of the War of 1812, Battle of Navarino, HMS <i>Victory</i>.</p>	<p>Andrew Lambert in Hill, chapter 6 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i>, chapter 6 N. A. M. Rodger in Till, chapter 2 Grove, <i>Royal Navy</i>, chapter 1 Spence, <i>Imperialism</i>, chapter 1 Keegan, <i>Price</i>, chapter 1</p>
<p>Week Two Sept. 14-18</p>	<p>Globalization, international law, war in China, colonization, the Crimea, abolition of slavery. (1839 – 1875) Imperialism and colonialism, Royal Navy & Industrialization. Strategy against Russia. Palmerstone’s policy in the American Civil War. Exploration, Franklin & Clark Ross, suppression of piracy and slavery. Indian mutiny and British India, HMS <i>Warrior</i>.</p>	<p>John Winton in Hill, chapter 9 Hamilton, “naval warfare, 1840-1870,” (1983).ⁱ Jones, “Voyage of the <i>Enterprise</i>...”ⁱⁱ Spence, <i>Imperialism</i>, chapter 2 Lambert, <i>Admirals</i>, chapter 6 (Parker) Harris, “Franklin expedition wrecks...”ⁱⁱⁱ Grove, <i>Royal Navy</i>, chapter 2 Wong, “Gunboat Diplomacy in China,” (2000).^{iv} Worcester, “Yangtze River, 1842...” (1950).^v</p>
<p>Week Three Sept. 21-25</p>	<p>Gunboat diplomacy, Gladstone & Salisbury’s naval policy, Africa, (1875 – 1900) Sail to Steam, gunnery reforms, armour. Ironclad era, HMS <i>Inflexible</i>, HMS <i>Excellent</i>, Mine warfare, steamboat colonialism, impact of Battle of Lissa. Colomb’s naval tactics.</p>	<p>Andrew Lambert in Till, chapter 3 Geoffrey Till in Till, chapter 4 David Brown in Hill, chapter 7 Halvorsen, “Mine Warfare...” (2004).^{vi} Morris, <i>Fisher</i>, chapter 1 & 2 Spence, <i>Imperialism</i>, chapter 3 Lambert, <i>Admirals</i>, chapter 7 (Hornby) Grove, <i>Royal Navy</i>, chapter 3 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i>, chapter 7 Gough, “Canadian Dominion,” (1986).^{vii} Gough, “Colomb...” (1990).^{viii} Partridge, “Close Blockade...” (1989).^{ix}</p>

<p>Week Four Sept. 28- Oct. 2</p>	<p>Mapping the world, the Fishpond, Imperial Defence (1900 – 1910) Naval power at the turn of the Century Arctic exploration, Scott, Shackleton, the Royal Navy during the Fisher era, Mahan, Corbett, Laughton. Reforms, flotilla defense, the torpedo, wireless. Greenwich, KCL, the Naval War Course, Balfour & the Committee of Imperial Defence, influence of the Russo-Japanese War, the Selborne Scheme.</p>	<p>N. Lambert, <i>Naval Revolution</i>, chapter 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Gordon, <i>Rules</i>, chapters, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, Roger Morris in Hill, chapter 8 Spence, <i>Imperialism</i>, chapter 4, 5 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i>, chapter 8 Daley, “search for wrecks...”^x Lambert, <i>Admirals</i>, chapter 8 (Fisher) N. Jellicoe, <i>Jutland</i>, chapter 1, 2 Morris, <i>Fisher</i>, chapter 3 & 4 Lambert in Hore, chapter 3 Dunley, “Russo-Japanese War...” (2015).^{xi} Seligmann & Morgan-Owen, “Evolution...” (2015).^{xii} McLaughlin, “Battlelines...,” (2015).^{xiii} Seligmann, “Home Fleet...” (2010).^{xiv} Johnson, “Selborne Scheme...” (2014).^{xv}</p>
<p>Week Five Oct. 5-9</p>	<p>Royal Navy in the Churchill era. (1910-1915) Airplane, range-finding, Jellicoe and gunnery reforms, Sumida, N. Lambert. The Dominion navies, <i>Queen Elizabeth</i> class, Tennyson D’Eyncourt, the Admiralty at extremes, May Crisis, development of the tank, Air Department and anti-submarine warfare, Admiral Percy-Scott and home defence, Dardanelles, mine warfare</p>	<p>Gordon, <i>Rules</i>, chapters, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 N. Lambert, <i>Naval Revolution</i>, chapter 7, 8, 9 Roskill, <i>Churchill</i>, chapter, 1, Lambert, <i>Admirals</i>, chapter 9 (Beatty) N. Jellicoe, <i>Jutland</i>, chapter 3, 4 & 5. Grove, <i>Royal Navy</i>, chapter 4 Brooks, “Gunnery Practices...” (2015).^{xvi} Bell, “Revolution by Proxy...” (2015).^{xvii} Eric Grove in Benbow, chapter 1</p>

<u>Block Two</u>	<u>The First World War & Interwar Years</u>	
Week Six Oct. 12-16 The War at Sea	The RN in the Great War to 1916 Operational history of the war part one Submarine war, Jellicoe and Beatty at the Grand Fleet, Falklands, Dogger Bank, establishing the blockade, North Sea warfare, Heligoland Bight, Jutland. Administrative and organizational changes at the Admiralty, Jellicoe reforms the naval staff	Massie, <i>Castles</i>, chapter 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 N. Jellicoe, <i>Jutland</i>, chapter 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10 Gordon, <i>Rules</i> , chapter 6, 7, 8, 20, 21, 22 Richard Harding in Hore, chapter 6 Keegan, <i>Price</i> , chapter 2 Grove, <i>Royal Navy</i> , chapter 5 Roskill, <i>Churchill</i> , chapter, 2, 3 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i> , chapter 9 Eric Grove in Benbow, chapter 2
Week Seven Oct. 19-23	The Great War to 1919 Russian Civil war and intervention Corbett's three staged conflict, elimination of trade interdiction, elimination of enemy colonies, blockade of enemy surface fleet and coasts, Beatty at the Grand Fleet, Arthur Marder's history, the Geddes era	N. Jellicoe, <i>Jutland</i>, chapter 11, 12, 14 Roskill, <i>Churchill</i>, chapter, 3, 4, 5 Lambert, "Sir Julian Corbett..." (2017).^{xviii} Massie, <i>Castles</i> , chapter 23, 25, 26, 28, 29 Roskill, <i>Naval Policy</i> , chapter 1 Marder, <i>Dardanelles to Oran</i> , chapter 2 Richard Woodman in Hore, chapter 4 Andrew Gordon in Till, chapter 5 Gaworek, "Blockade to Trade..." (1975). ^{xix}
Week Eight Oct. 26-30	Aircraft, disarmament, international maritime law. (1919 – 1929) Herbert Richmond & the Naval Review, the Air Ministry, Cunningham, Aircraft carriers, Geoffrey Till's history, the Jutland controversy, Beatty's feud with Jellicoe and Hugh Evan-Thomas, naval staff appreciation of the battle, Washington Naval Conference.	Till, <i>Air Power</i>, chapter 1, 2, 3, 4 Eric Grove in Hore, chapter 8 Marder, <i>Dardanelles to Oran</i>, chapter 3 Maiolo, "Did the RN decline..." ^{xx} Roskill, <i>Churchill</i> , chapter, 6 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i> , chapter 10 Lambert, <i>Admirals</i> , chapter 10 (Cunningham) Spence, <i>Imperialism</i> , chapter 6 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i> , chapter 10 Grove, <i>Royal Navy</i> , chapter 6 Roskill, <i>Naval Policy</i> , chapter 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 Peter Padfield in Hore, chapter 7 Geoffrey Till in Till, chapter 6 Maurer, "Japanese Naval Power..." (2012). ^{xxi} Geoffrey Till in Benbow, chapter 3

<p><u>Block Three</u></p>	<p><u>Interwar Period, Second World War & Beyond</u></p>	
<p>Week Nine Nov. 2-6</p>	<p>Collapse of the treaty system and the league of nations (1929 – 1939) Spanish Civil War, London Naval Conference failure, Anglo-German naval developments, Danzig crisis, opening movements. Social history, 1900 – 1950. Sir Dudley Pound.</p>	<p>Roskill, <i>Churchill</i>, chapter, 7 Macintyre, <i>Atlantic</i>, chapter 1, 2, 3 Kennedy, “Spanish Civil War...” (2005).^{xxii} Roskill, <i>White Ensign</i>, chapter 1, 2, 3 Roskill, <i>Naval Policy</i>, vol. 2, chpt. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 Marder, <i>Dardanelles to Oran</i>, chapter 4 Kennedy, <i>Mastery</i>, chapter 12 Keegan, <i>Price</i>, chapter 4 Sumida, “British Battle-Feet...” (1992).^{xxiii} Sears, “Discipline...” (1991).^{xxiv} Scammell, “naval agreement...” (1997).^{xxv} Baxter, “Britain’s position...” (1997).^{xxvi} Maiolo, “U-boat warfare...” (1999).^{xxvii}</p>
<p>Week Ten Nov. 9-13</p>	<p>North Sea, Norway campaign, Pacific. (1940 - 1942) Stephen Roskill’s history. Battle of the River Plate, Fall of Singapore, Dunkirk evacuation, loss of <i>Prince of Wales</i> and <i>Glorious</i>, <i>Hood</i> and sinking <i>Bismarck</i>: Battle of the Denmark strait, operation Dynamo</p>	<p>Roskill, <i>White Ensign</i>, chapter 4, 5, 6, 7 Roskill, <i>Churchill</i>, chapter, 8, 9, 10 Macintyre, <i>Atlantic</i>, chapter 4, 5, 6 Grove, <i>Royal Navy</i>, chapter 7 Jock Gardner in Till, chapter 7 Jessel, “Bismarck Operation...” (1953).^{xxviii} Bell, “Force Z...” (2001).^{xxix}</p>
<p>Week Eleven Nov. 16-20</p>	<p>Mediterranean, Pacific, Battle of the Atlantic. Blockade, airpower, nuclear warfare and victory (1942 – 1945) Malta, Gibraltar, Egypt and the Mediterranean command. Victory against Italy. Reintroduction of convoys, amphibious landing in Europe, naval blockade, war in the Pacific against Japan.</p>	<p>Roskill, <i>Churchill</i>, chapters, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 Macintyre, <i>Atlantic</i>, chapter 7, 8, 9, 10 Roskill, <i>White Ensign</i>, chapter 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 Ben Jones in Benbow, chapter 4 Jon Robb-Webb in Benbow, chapter 5</p>

<p>Week 12 Nov. 23-27</p>	<p>Korea & the Post-War Navy Demobilization. <i>Vanguard</i>, Mountbatten, <i>Dreadnought</i> (SSN), Nuclear warfare.</p>	<p>Tim Benbow in Hore, chapter 9 Prince, “Contribution of the RN...”.^{xxx} Grove, <i>Royal Navy</i>, chapter 8 Guy Liardet in Hore, chapter 25 Richard Hill in Till, chapter 8 Tim Benbow in Benbow, chapter 6 Benbow, “British Strategy...” (2018).^{xxxi} Howlett, “Dreadnought...” (2014).^{xxxii}</p>
<p>Week 13 Nov. 30- Dec.4</p>	<p>Suez, decolonization, detente. The cold war context, Polaris, Defence reduction, the Ministry of Defence, the future of the Royal Navy</p>	<p>Young, “Polaris lobby...” (2002).^{xxxiii} Spence, <i>Imperialism</i>, chapter 7 Geoffrey Till in Hore, chapter 21 Ellner, “Carrier Airpower...” (2006).^{xxxiv} Smith “Rewriting history?...” (2012).^{xxxv}</p>

ⁱ C. I. Hamilton, “The Royal Navy, La Royale, and the Militarisation of Naval Warfare, 1840-1870,” *Journal of Strategic Studies* 6, no. 2 (1983): 182–212.

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- ⁱⁱ A. G. E. Jones, "Sir James Clark Ross and the Voyage of the Enterprise and Investigator, 1848-49," *The Geographical Journal* 137, no. 2 (June 1971): 165–79.
- ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/franklin-expedition-hms-erebus-terror-1.4636222>
- ^{iv} J. Y. Wong, "The Limits of Naval Power: British Gunboat Diplomacy in China from the Nemesis to the Amethyst, 1839-1949," *War & Society* 18, no. 2 (2000): 93–120.
- ^v G. R. G. Worcester, "The First Naval Expedition on the Yangtze River, 1842," *The Mariner's Mirror* 36, no. 1 (1950): 2–11.
- ^{vi} Peter Halvorsen, "The Royal Navy and Mine Warfare, 1868-1914," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 27, no. 4 (2004): 685–707.
- ^{vii} Barry Gough, "The Royal Navy and Canadian Dominion," *The Mariner's Mirror* 72, no. 1 (1986): 5–15.
- ^{viii} Barry Gough, "The Influence of Sea Power upon History Revisited: Vice-Admiral P H Colomb, RN," *Royal United Services Institution Journal* 135, no. 2 (1990): 55–63.
- ^{ix} M. S. Partridge, "The Royal Navy and the End of the Close Blockade, 1885-1905: A Revolution in Naval Strategy?," *The Mariner's Mirror* 75, no. 2 (1989): 119–36.
- ^x <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/antarctic-research-ship-will-search-wreck-shackletons-endurance-180968780/>
- ^{xi} Richard Dunley, "'The Warrior Has Always Shewed Himself Greater than His Weapons': The Royal Navy's Interpretation of the Russo-Japanese War 1904-5," *War & Society* 34, no. 4 (2015): 248–62.
- ^{xii} Matthew Seligmann and David Morgan-Owen, "Evolution or Revolution? British Naval Policy in the Fisher Era," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 38, no. 7 (2015): 937–43.
- ^{xiii} Stephen McLaughlin, "Battlelines and Fast Wings: Battlefleet Tactics in the Royal Navy, 1900-1914," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 38, no. 7 (2015): 985–1005.
- ^{xiv} Matthew Seligmann, "A Prelude To the Reforms of Admiral Sir John Fisher: The Creation of the Home Fleet, 1902-3," *Historical Research* 83, no. 221 (August 2010): 506–19.
- ^{xv} Oliver Johnson, "Class Warfare and the Selborne Scheme: The Royal Navy's Battle Over Technology and Social Hierarchy," *The Mariner's Mirror* 100, no. 4 (2014): 422–33.
- ^{xvi} John Brooks, "Preparing for Armageddon: Gunnery Practices and Exercises in the Grand Fleet Prior to Jutland," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 38, no. 7 (2015): 1006–23.
- ^{xvii} Christopher M. Bell, "The Myth of a Naval Revolution by Proxy: Lord Fisher's Influence on Winston Churchill's Naval Policy, 1911-1914," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 38, no. 7 (2015): 1024–44.
- ^{xviii} Andrew Lambert, "Writing the Battle: Jutland in Sir Julian Corbett's Naval Operations," *The Mariner's Mirror* 103, no. 2 (2017): 175–95.
- ^{xix} Norbert H. Gaworek, "From Blockade to Trade: Allied Economic Warfare Against Soviet Russia, June 1919 to January 1920," *Jahrbucher Fur Geschichte Osteuropas* 23, no. 1 (1975): 39–69.
- ^{xx} Joseph A. Maiolo, "Did the Royal Navy Decline between the Two World Wars?," *Royal United Services Institution Journal* 159, no. 4 (August 2014): 18–24.
- ^{xxi} John H. Maurer, "'Winston Has Gone Mad': Churchill, the British Admiralty, and the Rise of Japanese Naval Power.," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 35, no. 6 (2012): 775–97.
- ^{xxii} Greg Kennedy, "The Royal Navy, Intelligence and the Spanish Civil War: Lessons in Air Power, 1939-39," *Intelligence and National Security* 20, no. 2 (2005): 238–63.

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- ^{xxiii} Jon Sumida, "The Best Laid Plans': The Development of British Battle-Fleet Tactics, 1919-1942," *The International History Review* 14, no. 4 (1992): 681–700.
- ^{xxiv} Jason Sears, "Discipline in the Royal Navy, 1913-1946," *War & Society* 9, no. 2 (1991): 39–60.
- ^{xxv} Clare M. Scammell, "The Royal Navy and the Strategic Origins of the Anglo-German Naval Agreement of 1935," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 20, no. 2 (1997): 92–118.
- ^{xxvi} Christopher J. Baxter, "A Question of Blame? Defending Britain's Position in the South China Sea, the Pacific and South-East Asia, 1919-1941," *Royal United Services Institution Journal* 142, no. 4 (1997): 66–75.
- ^{xxvii} Joseph A. Maiolo, "Deception and Intelligence Failure: Anglo-German Preparations for U-Boat Warfare in the 1930s," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 22, no. 4 (1999): 55–76.
- ^{xxviii} R. F. Jessel, "The Bismarck Operation - The German Aspect," *Royal United Services Institution Journal* 98, no. 589 (1953): 14–28.
- ^{xxix} Christopher M. Bell, "The 'Singapore Strategy' and the Deterrence of Japan: Winston Churchill, the Admiralty and the Dispatch of Force Z," *The English Historical Review* 116, no. 467 (June 2001): 604–34.
- ^{xxx} Stephen Prince, "The Contribution of the Royal Navy to the United Nations Forces During the Korean War," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 17, no. 2 (1994): 94–120.
- ^{xxxi} Tim Benbow, "The Royal Navy and Sea Power in British Strategy, 1945-55," *Historical Research* 91, no. 252 (May 2018): 375–98.
- ^{xxxii} <https://airspacehistorian.wordpress.com/2014/11/28/any-other-name-the-origin-of-hms-dreadnought-ssn-s101/>
- ^{xxxiii} Ken Young, "The Royal Navy's Polaris Lobby, 1955-62," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 25, no. 3 (2002): 56–86.
- ^{xxxiv} Andrea Ellner, "Carrier Airpower in the Royal Navy during the Cold War: The International Strategic Context," *Defence & Security Analysis* 22, no. 1 (August 2006): 23–44.
- ^{xxxv} Adrian Smith, "Rewriting History? Admiral Lord Mountbatten's Efforts to Distance Himself From the 1956 Suez Crisis," *Contemporary British History* 26, no. 4 (December 2012): 489–508.