

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: 'We would not know there was a war on'. Life on the British Home Front During the Second World War.
Status: Definitive
Code: **6011HIST** (114601)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019
Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
David Clampin	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 24
Total Delivered Hours: 65
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 175

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Workshop	62

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Essay	50	
Exam	AS2	Unseen exam	50	3

Aims

- 1. To provide an insight into the people's experience of living day-by-day in Britain during the Second World War.*
- 2. To encourage students to challenge the popular history and meta-narratives associated with the past with a view to engaging with a period from a more down-to-earth perspective.*
- 3. Introduce students to the theoretical approach of cultural history, especially in relation to how people situate themselves within society irrespective of the greater*

events being played out around them.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically evaluate both contemporary interpretations of events and the historic record, testing their merit and validity.
- 2 Apply theoretical models of historical interpretation gained through the reflexive core of the course, particularly with reference to models of cultural history.
- 3 Make a systematic appraisal of the British experience of the Second World War that critically evaluates new and unconventional sources.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	1	2
Exam	3	

Outline Syllabus

1. *Historiographical approaches.*
2. *War begins at home.*
3. *Evacuation.*
4. *The Lion Has Wings.*
5. *From 'Guilty Men' to 'People's War'.*
6. *Engaging with the war.*
7. *The Ministry of Information and Home Front propaganda.*
8. *Churchill.*
9. *Living despite the Blitz.*
10. *Leisure, entertainment, escape.*
11. *Filming the 'People's War'.*
12. *Millions Like Us.*
13. *Rationing and austerity.*
14. *War crimes, Spivs and Racketeers.*
15. *Women in wartime.*
16. *Masculinity on the Home Front.*
17. *The Industrial Front.*
18. *Wartime politics and the post-war world.*
19. *'Which People's War?'*
20. *Overview, revision, exam preparation.*

Learning Activities

Lectures and class discussion around primary sources.

Notes

The Second World War still has a strong presence within British society. For many it truly represents Britain's 'finest hour', a period when the nation, finding itself alone facing an overwhelming and evil enemy, prevailed and reigned victorious. Accordingly, this momentous victory is thought to have brought out all that was good in the nation and encapsulates the true nature of British national character: a cheerful, good humoured community with huge reserves of sang-froid and phlegm, prone to 'muddling through' and getting the job done, often more by luck than judgement. This interpretation is encapsulated in the ideal of 'People's War'. This module is designed to deconstruct this moniker to examine it both as a widely prevalent phenomenon of the time and as the dominant post-war interpretation of those events. In so doing, it undertakes a close analysis of everyday life in Britain between 1939 and 1945 to establish the extent to which people really engaged with the war, how far it was a driving force, and what the war meant to them.