

**Postgraduate Certificate in Regional and Local History:
Sources and Approaches
(60 credits, Level 7)**

An online 12-month, part-time taught course
with an independent research element



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What is the course about?

Britain is and always has been a country of contrasts. Although national and international developments affected everyone in the country in some way, they did not do so consistently. People's experiences depended on their social class, whether they were male or female and, crucially, on *where* they lived. Regional history and local history enable us to understand these varied experiences and, in doing so, to assess how typical they might have been.

This online course aims to stimulate awareness of the role of local and regional studies for our broader understanding of Britain's diverse past. It explores different experiences across England and Wales in the century and a half before 1914, a period during which some parts of the country were transformed from a largely rural economy to an urban, industrial powerhouse while others stagnated or declined, and discusses ways in which these developments affected people's work, shopping, home life, welfare, education, leisure, health, crime, political affiliations and values. It introduces you to historians' fluctuating and developing interpretations of these tumultuous years and some of the major sources which enable you to explore them further for yourself at local and regional level.



What does it cover?

The course consists of two taught modules and an independent research project. In the taught modules you will be guided through some of the key literature on social, economic and political changes and some of the sources available to explore the topics further. Here is a typical syllabus for the course:

Introduction and orientation: breaking the ice (non-assessed)

The course website: accessing resources and materials online

Original archives: locating, using and referencing

Using IT in History: introduction to simple spreadsheets and databases

Module 1 Regional and local economies and societies

Agriculture and rural societies

Landowners and farmers: the regional structure of rural society

Workforces: families, labourers and servants

Agricultural fortunes: booms and slumps - regional trajectories

Industry: factories, workshops and mines

Mills, mines and workshops: the regional structure of industry
The gendered workforce
The nature, extent and control of child labour

The retail revolution

Markets and itinerants: the survival of traditional retailing?
'A nation of shopkeepers': charting the growth of shops
The cooperative movement: the people's stores

Sources: Parliamentary Papers (official commissions, reports and accounts); census; Board of Agriculture county surveys; enclosure acts and awards; tithe commutation papers and maps; agricultural statistics, Inland Revenue district valuation (Edwardian Domesday); parish records; newspapers and journals; trade directories; rate books

Module 2: Social relationships and organisations**Families and households**

Births, marriages and deaths: the changing structure of the population
Household economies and relationships

Governing the people

The age of localism: the nature and role of local government
Who governed Britain? local social elites
Political loyalties and conflicts: poll books and elections
Pressure groups: do-gooders and social reformers

Social problems

Crime and policing: regional patterns and local responses
Public health: conquering disease and squalor
Poverty and pauperism: charity and the Poor Law
Banishing ignorance? the development of elementary schooling

Sources: Census; parish registers; newspapers and journals; poll books; trade directories; criminal and police statistics; government official reports on crime, public health, charities, friendly societies, the poor law and public health; educational census; Poor Law correspondence; Acts of Parliament; oral history.

Module 3: Independent Research Project

The final module is an independent piece (c. 5000 words) of specific local or regional research related to a theme explored in the previous two modules, in which you are asked to demonstrate your understanding of the wider context, methods, sources and potential significance of your work in much the same way that an academic article does. Advice and guidance will be given on possible topics. You may use online or original documents in archives which you may be able to access.



How is it assessed?

For the first two modules, assessment consists of an essay, chosen from a list of questions related to topics studied, and a reflective summary of an evaluative online learning log kept during each module. The final module is assessed by a 5,000 word research project.

All assignments are due in after the end of each module and will be delivered, marked and returned electronically.

What online resources will be available to me?

As a student you will have access to an **extensive collection of e-books and articles in academic journals** through the subscriptions services taken out by Lancaster University Library; [Bibliography of British and Irish History](#) (previously the Royal Historical Society Bibliography) the most complete listing of articles, chapters and books; and [Historical Abstracts](#) which provides summaries of articles from a wide range of regional, national and international journals; Through these publications you will be able to read not only summaries of key debates and subjects but the original contributions to those debates.

The library's subscription also provides access to a wide range of searchable original sources including:

[Eighteenth-Century Collections Online \(ECCO\)](#) which contains the text of over 200,000 books

[Burney Collection of Newspapers](#), 1600-1800

[19th Century British Library Newspapers](#) - 2 million pages of searchable text from 49 newspapers

[British Periodicals, 1681-1920](#) - 587 titles and over 5 million searchable pages

[House of Commons Parliamentary Papers](#) which include Royal Commissions, Select Committees, reports, statistics documenting virtually every aspect of British life: poor law, child labour, infant mortality, drunkenness, horse racing, etc. and much more

[Justis UK Statutes](#) all UK general statutes since 1238

[Times Digital Archive](#) newspapers since 1785

[Oxford Dictionary of National Biography](#)

[Digimap](#)

The course also makes use of publications and sources which are freely available online such as:

[Agricultural History Review](#), the journal of the British Agricultural History Society

[Refresh](#) published by the Economic History Society

[Local Population Studies](#) published by the Local Population Studies Society

[Welsh History Review](#) the leading Welsh academic journal

[Google Books](#), which has digitised many early 19th century volumes

[Historical Directories](#) which contains hundreds of searchable trade directories

[Cheshire Tithe Maps](#) digitised by Cheshire Record Office

[New Landscapes](#), Berkshire Record Office's analysis of enclosure awards

[Old Bailey Online](#) which has verbatim details of court cases

[Histpop](#) published census reports

[London Gazette](#) which lists partnerships, bankruptcies, changes to ecclesiastical parishes - and much more

Articles, chapters, databases and original research materials collected by tutors will also be made available to students.

How is the course delivered?

It will be delivered through a virtual learning environment (VLE) which will contain all the course documentation, links to digital books, articles and sources, selected spreadsheets and databases, web links, visual presentations, discussion boards for debates and raising questions, and a personal learning log. You will also be given a university email account. Both can be accessed 24/7.

When does the course run from and to?

The course runs from October to mid-September the following year, with breaks between modules.

How much time each week will I have to spend studying?

The Certificate is equivalent to one-third of a full-time MA so, assuming a 35-40 hour week, you should aim to spend an *average* of one and a half days or 12-13 hours per week. You may, of course, spend much longer if you wish!

Who will teach me?

Course author and tutor

Dr Michael Winstanley has extensive experience of teaching regional and local history for over 30 years and was previously co-director of the Postgraduate Diploma and MA in Local and Regional History in the History Department at Lancaster University. He was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in 2002. His publications include studies of farming and rural society, rural industries, poaching, working children, the factory labour force, shops and shopping, housing, policing, 19th-century local government, politics, oral history, archives, and the teaching and practice of History.

Director of Studies

Dr Sam Riches, Co-ordinator of CNWRS and previously History Co-ordinator with responsibility for the distance learning Certificate in Local History in the Department of Continuing Education at Lancaster University, has extensive experience of developing and teaching online courses, including for Oxford University. She has overall responsibility for the smooth running of the course, including students' pastoral care.

What are the entry qualifications?

The standard entry requirement is a good honours degree in History or a related subject, or an equivalent qualification (such as Oxford University's Advanced Diploma in Local History via the Internet). We will also consider applicants with other qualifications who can demonstrate a proven interest in local/regional history. Please contact Dr Sam Riches for an informal discussion of your personal circumstances.

What equipment and skills will I need?

A PC or laptop capable of running MS Office 2003, 2007 or 2010 (Word, Excel) or compatible software (e.g. Open Office), networked through a reasonably good broadband connection. Excel will be used to deliver some datasets containing historical information relevant to the content of the course, but simple instructions on using Excel 2003 and 2007/10 will be provided for students who are unfamiliar with this software.

How much will it cost?

The fee for 2012-13 will be £1,833 for UK and EU students and £3633 for overseas students.

Fees can be paid in instalments: please contact [Dr Sam Riches](#) if you would like to discuss this option.

Further details, enquiries and applications

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