In 1888 the East End of London, where Jack-the-Ripper brutally murdered five prostitutes, was notorious as a site of poverty, crime, and immorality. Yet at the time, many Victorians believed that crime had declined in the 1880s. Some historians attribute this decline to efficient, even ruthless, policing. Professor Bailey will suggest that the commission and repression of crime cannot be understood outside the wider context of employment, family and neighborhood, immigration, charity and welfare, housing and local government, and the local magistrates’ courts.

Victor Bailey is Charles W. Battey Distinguished Professor of Modern British History and Director of the Hall Center for the Humanities. His research focuses on the origins, principles, and administration of the English system of criminal justice, from the early Victorian era through the twentieth century. His books include *Policing and Punishment in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (1981), *Delinquency and Citizenship: Reclaiming the Young Offender* (1987), and *"This Rash Act": Suicide Across the Life-Cycle in the Victorian City* (1998). His current project is “The Rise and Demise of Rehabilitation: Punishment, Culture and Society in Modern Britain.”

**Victor Bailey**

Charles W. Battey Distinguished Professor of Modern British History
Director, Hall Center for the Humanities
University of Kansas

Wednesday February 23, 2011
4:30 pm

Richter Library
3rd Floor Conference Room
1300 Memorial Drive
University of Miami

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