This class examines the history of Britain since 1688, focusing on the major political events and social changes that shaped the development of the English people and their neighbors. Using a variety of readings, art, and film we will examine topics such as life in the Augustan Age, the Industrial Revolution, Victorian society and culture, the British Empire, Britain at war, and the “People’s Peace.”

Learning Outcomes
Students in this class will demonstrate content knowledge of British and Irish history, analyze primary and secondary sources for their historical content and interpretations, and demonstrate writing skills that reflect persuasive historical arguments based on evidence and proper citation.

Class participation is an integral part of this class. Read the complete assignment and be prepared to discuss it in class.

Grade: Your grade in this course will be based on two exams (45%), three essays on assigned topics (45%), and class participation (10%). Exam and paper due dates are noted below. I do not accept late or electronically submitted papers.

Please note that tape recording of lectures is not permitted.

Required Reading:
Barczewski, et al., Britain since 1688 (text)
Amanda Foreman, Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire
Charles Dickens, David Copperfield
Bill Buford, Among the Thugs
Primary Documents Online

Statement on Plagiarism:

Please note that anyone committing plagiarism in any written assignment will earn an F for the course and may face further disciplinary action. Plagiarism is defined in the University of West Georgia Handbook as “representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Direct
quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged.” Please see the UWG’s History Department statement on plagiarism.

Students, please carefully review the following information. It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, and university accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Course Schedule and Assignments:
Week 1 (Jan. 8-10)
Introduction, The Revolutionary Settlement, 1688-1715

Reading: Text, 1-23
Document: Bill of Rights (1689)

Week 2 (Jan. 15-17)
The Age of Walpole and Pitt

Reading: Text, 24-44

Week 3 (Jan. 22-24)
Life in the Augustan Age

Reading: Foreman, entire book

Week 4 (Jan. 29-31)
Revolution and Radicalism

Reading: Text, 69-96
Document: Reflections on the Revolution in France

Week 5 (Feb. 5-7)
Workshop of the World

Reading: Text, 97-104
Document: The Working Classes in Manchester

Paper #1 due Feb. 7

Week 6 (Feb. 12-14)
The Age of Reform, 1815-50
Reading: Text, 104-124
Document: The People’s Petition

Week 7 (Feb. 19-21)
The Age of Equipoise? 1850-80

Reading: Text, 125-152

Week 8 (Feb. 26-28)
Victorian Society

Reading: Dickens, entire book

Week 9 (Mar. 5-7)
Victorian Empire

Reading: Text, 153-173
Document: The Maintenance of Empire

Week 10 (Mar. 12-14)
The Rise of Labour and Social Reform

Reading: Text, 174-199
Document: The New Liberalism

Midterm Exam March 14

Mar. 18-22 Spring Break

Week 11 (Mar. 26-28)
World War One and After

Reading: Text, 200-225
Documents: World War One Poems

Paper #2 due 26 March
Week 12 (Apr. 2-4)
The Long Weekend – Interwar Britain

Reading: Text, 226-251

Week 13 (Apr. 9-11)
World War Two and the People’s Peace

Reading: Text, 252-279
Documents: Radio Speech to the British People, Britain Stands Alone, The Report on Social Insurance

Week 14 (Apr. 16-18)
Postwar Decline to Brexit

Reading: Text 280-358; Buford, entire book

Paper #3 due 18 April

Week 15 (Apr. 23-25)
Conclusions

Final exam – In Class, Thursday 25 April