

HIST 157

English History Since 1688

General Description

Course Overview English history since 1688 is filled with dramatic political, social, economic, and cultural change. In the course of 300 years, England rose to the heights of empire, but eventually gave up most of its colonial possessions. Politically, the nation moved from a government of a monarch and a few elites to a representative democracy. Sweeping social changes were brought about by industrialization and urbanization, which, for a time, made Britain an economic power without rival. This superiority was also eroded, as the nation struggled to find a role in the transformed world of the late twentieth century. The welfare state would also have been unimaginable in 1688, but it came to define British progressivism in the twentieth century. In this course, we will try to make sense of these developments.

Textbooks and Materials Our texts for this course are:

- William B. Willcox and Walter Arnstein, *The Age of Aristocracy, 1688–1830*, 8th edition (Houghton Mifflin, 2001)
- Walter Arnstein, *Britain Yesterday and Today, 1830 to the Present*, 8th edition (Houghton Mifflin, 2001)
- Walter Arnstein, *The Past Speaks: Sources and Problems in British History*, Volume II: Since 1688 (D.C. Heath, 1993)

These textbooks can be purchased from the Higher Grounds bookstore at the Friday Center. Use the book order form located in this manual to order your texts or go online at <https://s4.its.unc.edu/HigherGrounds>.

General Description

The first two books listed above are traditional textbooks, and the third book is a collection of contemporary documents that should give you a direct connection to the kinds of debates, discussions, personalities, institutions, and opinions that make up history. In addition to your textbooks, you will need to read the introductory material accompanying each lesson in this course manual. This material will provide an overview of the topic and outline broad themes you should keep in mind as you read the texts.

Written assignments

At the end of each lesson are questions you will answer and submit for grading. Think carefully about the questions before responding to them, and be sure to draw on all your materials—the course manual, the texts, and the contemporary source documents. Your written assignments will be returned with a letter grade and comments.

Your answer for each of the questions should be between 200 and 400 words. Provide clear and focused explanations, and support your answers with specific examples.

Grading and Final Exam

The written assignments that you complete throughout the course make up one half of your grade, and the final exam makes up the other half. *You must pass the final exam to pass the course.* Grading will be based on the accuracy, clarity, and organization of your answers. Always pay attention to the larger significance of events, people, developments, or concepts. Your mastery of the material will depend on your ability to identify and discuss large themes that link the various topics in the course. The final exam will include both essay questions and short-answer identifications. The essay questions will be large in scope, requiring you to draw comparisons and contrasts in different time periods. The short-answer identifications will ask you to identify something or someone (a person, place, event, movement, concept, process, and so forth) and to explain its historical significance.