This course is a general (social, political, cultural) survey of the tragically entangled histories of England and Ireland from Tudor succession to the present. It has no prerequisites and is open to anyone with a genuine interest in the subject. Our format is a mix of open lectures and discussion sections supplemented by the occasional documentary film. I expect all students to attend all lectures, discussions, and films. If you will not be in class for any reason, please let me know why in advance. And everyone should feel free to seek me out in my office at any time in the semester for any reason (note my office hours, e-mail address, phone numbers, etc., below). My door is open.

**Instructor:**

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4 and by appointment

**Course Requirements:**

1. Consistent attendance and participation in class (10%)  
2. Four short (1-2 page) responses to the assigned books (20%)  
3. One group project/parliamentary debate (20%)  
4. Two 5-6 page essays (30%)  
5. One take-home final exam (20%)

**Books:**

The following *books* are required and available for purchase at the College Town Barnes and Noble Bookstore. They are also available inexpensively on Amazon, etc. No doubt they could be read on line also, but I **strongly encourage everyone to read these books the old fashioned way, i.e. on printed and bound paper.** Where assimilation and comprehension are concerned, I believe there is no substitute for this ancient practice. And for purposes of common discussion, it would be helpful if everyone had the same edition, as follows:
Thomas More, *Utopia* (Penguin Classics)
Daniel Defoe, *Journal of the Plague Year* (Penguin Classics)
Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (Oxford World Classics)
George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (Mariner Books)

**Academic Honesty:** All students in this class will be expected to be familiar with and abide by the principles of academic honesty as laid down by the College of Arts and Science’s academic honesty policy. For the full articulation of this policy (including the consequences of its violation), see [http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/)

**Class Schedule**

**Week 1**  **Prologue**
Aug. 31  Introduction & Overture
Sept. 2  The Tudor Succession, Henry VIII, and the English Reformation

**Reading:** Thomas Cranmer, “Letter on Henry VIII’s Divorce” (1533); *The Act of Supremacy* (1534); Richard Pollard, “The Suppression of Glastonbury Abbey” (1539); Henry VIII, “Speech to Parliament” (1545)

**Week 2**  **Thomas More’s Utopia**
Sept. 7  No Class—Labor Day
Sept. 9  Discussion Sections: *Utopia*  (Response #1 due)

**Reading:** Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516)

**Week 3**  **Empire and Revolution**
Sept. 14  Elizabeth I and the Making of the First English Empire
Sept. 16  The Crisis of Parliaments: The English Civil War and Revolution

**Reading:**

**Week 4**  **Restoration and Revolution**
Sept. 21    The “Glorious Revolution”?  
Sept. 23    Discussion Sections: *A Journal of the Plague Year* (Response #2 due)  
**Reading:** Daniel Defoe, *A Journal of the Plague Year* (1722)  
**Week 5**  **Enlightenment and Ascendancy**  
Sept. 28    The British Enlightenment  
Sept. 30    The Plantation of Ireland and the Protestant Ascendancy  
**Reading:**  
**Week 6**  **Maria Edgeworth’s *Castle Rackrent***  
Oct. 5      No Class—Fall Break  
Oct. 7      Discussion Sections: *Castle Rackrent* (Response #3 due)  
**Reading:** Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (1800)  
**Week 7**  **The Age of Revolution**  
Oct. 14     Imperial Meridian  
**Reading:**  
**Week 8**  **Reform and Hunger**  
Oct. 19     The Age of Reform  
Oct. 21     Famine and Emigration  
**Reading:**  
**Week 9**  **The Victorian Age**  
Oct. 26     Gladstone and the Irish Nation  
Oct. 28     The Strange Death of Liberal England  
**Reading:**
Week 10  The Irish Question: A Parliamentary Debate
Nov. 2    Group Workshop
Nov. 4    Group Debate

Week 11  The First World War and After
Nov. 9    The First World War and the Easter Uprising
Nov. 11   The Troubles I (1919-1923)

Reading:

Week 12  Between the Wars
Nov. 16   England and Ireland Between the Wars
Nov. 18   Discussion Sections: The Road to Wigan Pier (Response #4 due)

Reading: George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937)

Week 13  England and Ireland and the Second World War
Nov. 23   Their Finest Hour?
Nov. 25   No class: Thanksgiving Break

Reading:

Week 14  Postwar
Nov. 30   Farewell the Trumpets: the Decline and Fall of the British Empire
Dec. 2    The Troubles II (1968-1998)

Week 15  Retrospect and Prospect
Dec. 7    Good Friday and After
Dec. 9    Conclusion: The Break-up of Britain?

Reading:
Friday, December 18: Take Home Final Essay Due