History 4933 and 4953: Victorian History (6 credits)

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Description and Objectives:

Students will learn about, and experience through immersion, Britain in the long nineteenth-century (1815-1918): the age of Queen Victoria, Charles Dickens, the industrial revolution, the zenith of Britain’s imperial standing. Through a combination of lectures, readings, a research paper, and visits to museums and to the great artifacts of Britain’s past, students will gain the kind of understanding of the Victorian age that can only be gained by being there.

This class contains a required research component (12-15 page research paper). Professor Bronstein will assist students in the identification of topics, and in finding useful primary sources either in archives, museums or other places.

Textbook:

Students will be required to purchase one textbook for the class:

Walter Arnstein, The Past Speaks, vol. 2

*The Past Speaks* is a collection of primary sources that will be used in class discussion.

Tentative Schedule:

**Monday, July 12**  
AM: England in 1815 (Bronstein); Crisis of Reform, 1827-1832 (Guest Lecturer)  
PM: Political Economy and the New Poor Law; Condition of England Question

**Tuesday, July 13**  
AM: PM: *Visit to Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey*

**Wednesday, July 14**  
AM: Rise of the English Middle Class; Chartism  
PM: *The English Church* (Guest Lecturer); Politics in the Age of Robert Peel

**Thursday, July 15**  
*AM/PM- Tour of Oxford – All Day; includes Oxford colleges, and the Ashmolean museum*
Monday, July 19
AM: Crime, Policing and Punishment; Sex and the Victorians
PM: Visit to London Foundling Hospital

Tuesday, July 20
AM: Women’s Status in Victorian England (Guest Lecturer); Death and the Victorians
PM: Age of Equipoise; Victorian Consumerism: Shopping and Music Hall

Wednesday, July 21
AM: Visit to Highgate Cemetery
PM: Meet with Professor about Research Topics

MINI BREAK: July 22-26

Tuesday, July 27
AM: Gladstonian Liberalism; Disraelian Conservatism; Discussion of Primary Sources
PM: The Irish Question; Outcast London

Wednesday, July 28
AM/PM- Visit to Windsor Castle – all day

Thursday, July 29
AM: The Rise and Fall of Agriculture and Aristocracy (Guest Lecture); Discussion of Primary Sources
EVENING: Jack the Ripper Walking Tour

Monday, August 2
Visit to Museum of London

Tuesday, August 3
AM: England and Empire; The Strange Death of Liberal England
PM: Research Time

Wednesday, August 4
AM: Visit to Imperial War Museum

Thursday, August 5
AM: The Coming of the Great War; Britain in the Great War (Guest Lecture)
PM: Research Time

Friday, August 6
AM: Review for Final Exam

Saturday, August 7
Final Exam
Field Trips:
London and its environs provide an unparalleled opportunity for students to experience a sense of “being in” history. Field trips have been chosen in order to maximize students’ understanding of the themes presented in the course, and to provide a vivid and unforgettable historical experience.

Readings:
Students will be expected to complete a number of readings for the course, largely in primary sources generated in the 19th-century, available in the assigned textbook.

Research paper:
Each student will prepare a 15-page paper based in part on primary source material available in one of the many repositories in London, including but not necessarily limited to: the National Archives at Kew, the British Library, British Postal Museum and Archive, Victoria and Albert Museum, Museum of London, Bishopsgate Institute, local history archives, etc.

Grading:
Attendance and participation at all class sessions and field trips are mandatory; students will lose one letter grade for each one missed. Students will receive a class participation grade that will be based on active participation in discussions, mastery of the assigned readings, etc.

Participation Grade: 33.3 percent
Final Exam: 33.3 percent
Research Paper: 33.3 Percent

September 13: Research Paper Due to Instructor. Professor Bronstein will read and respond to rough drafts submitted by August 31. The final draft is due by email attachment no later than September 13.