The following is a **LIST of topics** you can choose from to fulfill the requirement of “TWO SMALLER PIECES OF WRITTEN WORK”. You must write on any TWO topics and be successful (i.e. pass). If you fail in one of the two, you must choose any THIRD topic. (If you fail again, you have failed to obtain credit.) The assignments must be handed in (in person) at the seminar one week **after** the general theme (to which the topic is related) has been discussed in class. In case of online teaching the assignment is sent by e-mail, but the temporal requirement still applies. The dates of individual topics are specified in the syllabus for the course. No late submissions will be accepted.

The assignments must be typed (unless you intend an artistic effect, as some assignments may call for this, use 12 Times New Roman), DOUBLE-Spaced (i.e. number 2), pages numbered and with generous margins, and word count included.

**assignment #1**: (Theme: **Medieval Britain II: The Gothic Style cont.**)

Imagine you were hired by a travel agency specializing in trips to interesting architectural and cultural sites to organize a visit to EITHER the castles in Wales, OR Gothic ecclesiastical buildings in England (choose one of these options). Plan a route, explain your choices of specific destinations and describe the sites you plan to visit by using the vocabulary from the lesson. (Note: the genres you work within are: detailed itinerary and description, min. 300 words. Simple downloads from Wikipedia will not be accepted.)

**assignment #2**: (Theme: **Tudors and the Renaissance**)

The reign of Elizabeth I is described as the Golden Age of English history. What would you say was the secret of this success? (Note: this should not be a personal and speculative text, but you need to write an essay focusing either on the representational practices of the era, the economic, cultural and/or religious dimensions. Approx. 300 words, plus a bibliography. Genre: academic essay based on basic research.)

**assignment #3**: (Theme: **Restoration and Augustan England**)

Choose an important day in British history or that of your country. Compose a diary entry of approximately 300 words and write about it in a style appropriate either for Samuel Pepys or John Evelyn. (Please, identify the choice of day and diarist.) Note: You do not have to limit yourself to the 17th or 18th centuries. This is meant to be primarily a stylistic exercise imitating the typical features of the two authors in question.

**assignment #4**: (Theme: **18th and 19th century landscapes**)

“The countryside as commodity”. Consider some of the ways in which, in our age of consumption, the countryside enters the space of urban consumerism, becomes objectified and commodified – either as a brand or designer label, e.g. to promote various foodstuffs, or as an idea, e.g. as an ideal of nature, which still persistently enters popular film and television. (An essay, preferably in journalistic style in the genre of e.g. an editorial, of min. 300 words.)

**assignment #5**: (Theme: **The Industrial Revolution**)

Read the text ‘So close and yet so despised’. Write a summary in 300 words.

**assignment #6**: (Theme: **The Aesthetic Movement**)

Look at the extracts from Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s *Willowwood* and William Morris’s *The Hollow Land*. In the space of approx. 500 words describe in what ways the extracts are typically Pre-Raphaelite. (A literary critical essay based on close reading.)

**assignment #7**: (Theme: **The Rise of the British Empire**)

Look at the two extracts from *Plain Tales from the Raj*. In the space of approx. 300 words answer both of the following questions (i.e. you do NOT select only one) (An essay.)
1. What picture of British life in India do the extracts give?
2. What parallels can be drawn between the two situations described?

**assignment #8**: (Theme: **The Great War,** this assignment is due by 9 a.m. Sunday January 8, 2023, at the latest, and can be submitted be email.)

(A literary critical essay based on close reading.) Read Isaac Rosenberg’s poem “Break of Day in the Trenches”. In the space of min. 300 words comment on the symbolism of the rat and the poppy. In your essay include also answers to BOTH of the following questions (i.e. but do NOT limit yourself to them only):
1. What does the rat symbolize? In what sense is he “cosmopolitan”? Why does he “inwardly grin”?
2. What does the poppy symbolize in this concrete poem? Can the poet save the symbolic poppies?