

## Neoclassic Period

- I. 1660-1785 (Renaissance – Romantic period)
- II. 1660 (king restored; Oliver Cromwell—“Lord Protector of England” — ruled from 1649-60)
- III. The first part of the Neoclassic Period is called Restoration because Charles II (son of the beheaded Charles I) was restored in 1660.
- IV. 1680—England defeated the navy of Holland. Then a number of victories over France. Unified with Scotland in 1707. In 1763 Britain control Canada and India. From now on, not English, but British.

## William Congreve

- I. “Master of Restoration Comedy”
- II. The satiric comedy of Congreve (1691-1700) and others of that time is called Comedy of Manners.
- III. **Comedy of Manners:** This kind of comedy is realistic and satiric. It deals with the manners and behavior of fashionable society. The characters are usually aristocrats or rich people, sophisticated and artificial in their tastes and lifestyles.
- IV. **Wit:** In its seventeenth-century application, it “denotes a kind of verbal expression which is brief, deft, and intentionally contrived to produce a shock of comic surprise.” (from *A Glossary of Literary Terms*)
- V. The Way of the World (1700)
- VI. Wit, Plot, and Situation vs. Poetic Language and Fine Characterization