



ENGLIT 1199: London Across History, Literature, & Film

CAPA LONDON PROGRAM

Spring 2019

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Class times	:	M TBD
Classroom location	:	TBD
Office Hours	:	M TBD & by appointment

Course Description

The course is designed to introduce students to spatial history of London through literary and cinematic texts by famous auteurs, including Oscar Wilde, Arthur Conan Doyle, M. NourbeSe Philip, and Zadie Smith. The course will be visited by at least one author or director working in contemporary London.

In London Across History, we undertake an historical tour of London, with these and other great writers and film-makers as our guides. We'll start with a walking tour of the Inns of Court, and the world of eighteenth-century London and law, experienced through the lens of M. NourbeSe Philip's experimental poetry. Our next stop will be the historic house and museum of Sir John Soane—a unique window into the life and arts of London's imperial elite, and the Romantic poetry of Byron and Blake. We'll visit a one-of-a-kind tribute to Oscar Wilde, in a pop-up museum open only until March 2019, before moving into the nineteenth century world of detective fiction through Arthur Conan Doyle's stories of Sherlock Holmes. The second half of the course will continue our considerations of race and empire with screenings of WWI cinema, a visit to the Imperial War Museum, and an investigation into London's labor and working-class history through the BBC adaptation of *Howard's End* and Zadie Smith's *On Beauty*. Our semester will close with cinematic representations of contemporary London.

Course Aims

All students will develop the basic skills necessary to analyze and evaluate literary and cinematic texts, in and through the spatial and historical contexts in which they were produced: students who complete London Across History with a high effort will gain a unique understanding of how to “read” a city that will serve them well in future scholarly and professional travels. Students will leave the course with a good understanding of how London's late-imperial past shapes and lives through the present city in which we will live and work. The course aims to help students learn about and appreciate London's rich and varied culture: but rather than simply appreciate key sites in London, or famous moments in England's literary history, students will gain a critical sense of how London has been written and rewritten through struggles over race, sexuality, labor, and empire—all through an on-site learning experience that can't be replicated in an ordinary literature or history classroom.

Requirements and Prerequisites

There are no specific requirements for this course. However, some interest in the intersection of literature, history, and film will be helpful.

Learning Outcomes

- A) Critically analyze and evaluate literary and cinematic texts in relationship to their historical, political, and spatial contexts;
- B) Identify relationships among historical and contemporary London;
- C) Understand the role of race, sexuality, and labor in London's imperial past and present
- D) Gain a critical literacy in literary, cinematic, archival, and monumental representations of London's past;
- E) Gain facility in critical and on-site research methods and the ability to lead tours and group discussions;
- F) General improvement in analytical writing and communication skills.

Developmental Outcomes

Students should demonstrate: responsibility & accountability, independence & interdependence, goal orientation, self-confidence, resilience, appreciation of differences. Students will learn skills necessary for critical writing in a variety of forms.

Class methodology

This course will meet once per week. Class sessions will either involve visits to historical sites in London—either beginning or ending with an introductory discussion, or closing de-brief on-site—or classroom discussion of some of the texts that will act as the course “tour guides.” Students should also anticipate at least one film screening at the Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image. Students can expect to sign-up for discussion-leading. Students should also anticipate guest lecturers or guides.

Field Component(s): CAPA provides the unique opportunity to learn about the city through direct, guided experience. Participation in the field activity(s) for this course is required. You will actively explore the Global City you are currently living in. Furthermore, you will have the chance to collect useful information that will be an invaluable resource for the essays/papers/projects assigned in this course.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in co-curricular program activities.

Major Assignments and grade percentage:

Weekly Critical Analysis Papers: Each week, students will compose an informal critical composition (combining analysis and evaluation) that responds to course texts (including London itself). These compositions will provide practice for the midterm and final composition projects. Students will be expected to meet with the instructor at least once in office hours for feedback on and discussion of their weekly papers. Grade %: 10%; learning outcomes A, E, F.

Participation: students will be expected to participate actively in class, both through their own written and verbal contributions, and, more importantly, through their active facilitation of peer participation. Grade %: 20%; learning outcomes A-F.

Tour facilitation: small groups of students will sign up for weeks in which they will research, plan for, and facilitate part of our on-site investigations. Each member of a tour facilitation group will turn in a short composition (~500 words) related to their preparation. Grade %: 20%; learning outcomes A-F.

Final Paper: Students will compose a final work of criticism (in essay or creative form) of approximately 2500 words or equivalent. As part of the preparation for their final paper, students will complete a midterm project of approximately 1000 words or equivalent. Grade %: 20% (midterm); 30% (final); learning outcomes A-F.

Assessment/Grading Policy

DE-SCRIPTOR	ALPHA	NU-MERIC	GPA	REQUIREMENT/EXPECTATION
Outstanding (High Distinction)	A	93+	4.0	Maximum grade: In addition to description for grade “A-“, the student shows detailed understanding of materials about which he or she can show independent analytical ability. This means the ability to question an issue from different perspectives and evaluate responses in an objective manner.
Excellent (Distinction)	A-	90 - 92	3.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond course texts, and the work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for evaluation.
Very good (High Credit)	B+	87 - 89	3.3	Shows evidence of a capacity to generalise from the taught content, or the material in literature, or from class lectures in an informed manner. Also, the work demonstrates a capacity to integrate personal reflection into the discussion and an appreciation of a range of different perspectives.
Good (Credit)	B	83 - 86	3.0	The work is well organised and contains coherent or logical argumentation and presentation.
Good (Credit)	B-	80 - 82	2.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the course texts, and, there is evidence of additional reading.

Average (Good Pass)	C+	77-79	2.3	The work demonstrates a capacity to integrate research into the discussion and a critical appreciation of a range of theoretical perspectives. Also, the work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question and its theoretical implications and demonstrates evidence of additional reading.
Adequate (Pass)	C	73 - 76	2.0	Shows clear understanding and some insight into the material course texts, but not beyond. A deficiency in understanding the material may be compensated by evidence of independent thought and effort related to the subject matter.
Below Average (Borderline Pass)	C-	70-72	1.7	Shows some understanding of the material in course texts. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought related to the subject matter.
Inadequate (Borderline Fail)	D+	67 - 69	1.3	Fails to show a clear understanding or much insight into the material in the textbook and notes
Poor (Fail)	D	60 - 66	0.7 - 1.0	Besides the above for D+, student has not shown interest or engagement in the class work or study.
Poor (Fail)	F	<60	0	Shows little or no understanding of any of the material
Incomplete	I			Please see CAPA policy in the Faculty Handbook.

Dress Code

No requirements: but please note that we will spend time outside in the London winter, and plan to dress accordingly.

Course Materials

Students will be required to read *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith. All other required course texts will be provided to students throughout the course. Texts include selections from:

Philip, *Zong!*
 Wilde, on the Queensbury Libel Trial
 Gosh, *Sea of Poppies*
 O'Brian, *Post Captain*
 Arthur Conan Doyle, *Sherlock Holmes*
 Works of Emmeline & Sylvia Pankhurst
 Byron, *The Curse of Minerva*
 Hirsch, *Brit(ish)*

Televisual and cinematic texts will include works such as:

Make More Noise!
King & Country and *Blackadder Goes Forth*
The Stuart Hall Project
White Teeth
Howard's End

Weekly Course Schedule

Week 1: London, Law, & Empire, pt. 1

Site-exploration: Walking tour of the Inns of Court

Week 2: London, Law, & Empire, pt. 2

Site-exploration: London, Sugar, & Slavery Exhibit @ Museum of London Docklands

Readings: selections from Philip, *Zong!*

Week 3: Naval Kitsch

Site-exploration: Sir John Soane Museum

Readings: selections from O'Brian, *Post Captain*, and Gosh, *Sea of Poppies*

Week 4: The Romantics

Readings: Byron, *The Curse of Minerva*; Harrison, "Give Back the Elgin Marbles"

Week 5: The Elgin Marbles

Site-exploration: British Museum

Week 6: Detective Fiction

Site-exploration: Sherlock Holmes Museum

Readings: Selections from Doyle, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*

Week 7: London, Law, & Empire, pt. 3

Site-exploration: The Oscar Wilde Temple

Readings: Wilde on the Queensbury Libel Trial

MIDTERM BREAK

Week 8: Battles on the Home Front

Readings: Works of Emmeline & Sylvia Pankhurst, *TBD*; *Make More Noise* (required screening)

Week 9: King & Country

Site-exploration: Imperial War Museum

Readings: *King & Country* (required screening); *Blackadder Goes Forth*

Week 10: Monuments

Site-exploration: Trafalgar Square

Readings: Hirsch, "Toppling Statues," and selections from *Brit(ish)*

Week 11: Adaptation

Site-exploration: TBD

Readings: *On Beauty*; *Howards End* (see assignment sheet for recommended reading and viewing schedule)

Week 12: Diasporas

Readings: *White Teeth* (see assignment sheet for recommended viewing schedule); *The Stuart Hall Project* (required screening)

Week 13: The Thames

Site/Readings TBD

Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities

Attendance: CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class. Unauthorized absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade and potentially a failure for the course.

Missing classes for medical reasons: If you need to miss a class for medical reasons or for a family emergency, you must send an e-mail to let the Director of Academic Affairs (DAA) know at least one hour in advance of your class or meeting at the following e-mail:_____. Note that calling the CAPA Center (_____) is acceptable only if you do not temporarily have access to the internet. An e-mail is still required as quickly as you can get access to the internet again. You will need to provide evidence of the reason for your absence. Unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction. In the event of a missed class or field trip, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor and make up any missed assignments.

Class Participation: Students are expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time. Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity: A high level of responsibility and academic honesty is expected. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will result in dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

Use of electronic equipment in class: All devices such as laptops, I-pods, I-pads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are **NOT** allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Director of Academic Affairs at the beginning of Term.

Use of Electronic Translators: In Language courses students are NOT allowed to use electronic translators for writing texts in the target language: those submitting compositions and texts of whatever kind translated in such a fashion will receive a final F grade for the course.

Late Submission: Late submission of papers, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

Behavior during Examinations: During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action.