



London Across History, Literature, and Film LNDN COLT 3312

Course Methodology:

The fundamental focus is both literary and filmic, but the class will use London as its living background. The class proceeds by formal lecture with visits to pertinent sites of thematic interest. Students are encouraged and expected to participate actively in classroom discussion as it relates to the assigned texts and films.

Course Description:

The course is designed to introduce students both to some famous literary texts from Johnson to Conan Doyle and to contemporary representations of multi-cultural London. In the first half of the course we visit the places where famous literary projects were first conceived. In the second half of the course the class will be visited by an author or director working in contemporary London.

This course takes its students on a historical tour of the capital with great writers and film-makers as our guides. We start with a boat trip from Westminster to Tower Bridge: a view of the city from the river on which it was built. Our first stop back on land is Samuel Johnson and the world of eighteenth century literary London. We look at some of the variety of Johnson's writing and also visit the house in which he wrote his dictionary and the pub (The Cheshire Cheese) where he entertained his friends. We then move onto the Romantic poets and read poems about London by Blake, Wordsworth and Keats before visiting the Elgin Marbles at the British Museum. We then pass into the nineteenth century world of detective fiction and some of the stories of Sherlock Holmes. The second half of the course focuses on contemporary London and questions of race and culture – Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia* and Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* punctuate a series of films (many of them directed by Stephen Frears) which provide images of London today. It is hoped Hanif Kureishi and Stephen Frears will visit the class.

Course Aims and Objectives:

All students should have developed basic skills in analyzing literary and filmic texts. They should also have a good grasp of London as a literary and cultural city.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- identify, define, and solve problems;
- locate and critically evaluate information;
- master a body of knowledge and a mode of inquiry;
- communicate effectively;
- gain a deeper understanding of the host culture where they are studying.

Developmental Outcomes

Students should demonstrate: responsibility & accountability, independence & interdependence, goal orientation, self-confidence, resilience, appreciation of differences.

Course Text

All required course texts will be provided to students throughout the course. Texts include selections from:

- Samuel Johnson
- Arthur Conan Doyle
- John Keats
- William Blake
- William Wordsworth
- Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*

In addition to the written texts outlined above, the course will include the following films:

- *My Beautiful Laundrette*
- *Sammie and Rosie Get Laid*
- *Young Soul Rebels*
- *White Teeth*
- *Dirty Pretty Things*

Assessment Methods:

All students must write a 5-page paper by the break on one of the literary texts studied, produce a final 7-page paper analysing one of the films with particular attention to its representation of London. These elements count towards 50% of the mark. The other 50% is for class participation which in addition to contributing to class discussions in class and making a presentation of one film includes brief (1-2 pages) written exercises.

Assessment Breakdown:

Mid-term Paper: 20%

Final Paper: 30%

Presentation and Brief: 15%

Participation: 35%

Assessment Criteria and Course Expectations

The assessment criteria are based on the student's ability to mount arguments in relation to literary and filmic texts and to draw on the information provided about London both by their formal classes and their formal and informal visits.

Class participation and attendance

Participation is a vital part of your grade: CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Students are also 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. If you need to miss class for medical reasons or for a family emergency, please let the Chief Academic Officer know in advance of meetings on excused.absence@capa.org, so plans can be made accordingly – you will need to provide evidence of the reason for your absence. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the CAO, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. Students are responsible for making up any missed assignments. See the CAPA Statement of Academic Standards and Policies for further information. All attendance is mandatory.

CAPA Program and Instructor Policies

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. 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 demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behaviour. This means to gain full attendance you must attend all classes, you must not be late (unless with a valid reason) and you must be respectful of the professor and of other students by not talking/whispering in class when others are talking or presenting. Persistent lateness or lack of attention in class, i.e. reading materials other than the work set, may result in a low or zero grade for participation, and possible referral to the CAO. No electronic equipment will be used in class, including laptops, phones, iPods, cell phones, etc., unless you have written permission from the Chief Academic Officer prior to the course. If you are caught using any electronic equipment, you may receive a zero grade for participation. Plagiarism will be dealt with very seriously, and will be referred to the Chief Academic Officer in London. You may receive an F for the course. If all work is not submitted by the end of the program, you will receive an F for the course.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Boat Trip from Westminster to Tower Bridge

Week 2 Visit to Johnson's House and The Cheshire Cheese

Week 3 Texts from Samuel Johnson (texts provided in class)

Week 4 Blake, Wordsworth and Keats (texts provided in class)

Week 5 Visit to the British Museum

Week 6 Sherlock Holmes (texts provided in class)

Week 7 Hanif Kureishi's The Buddha of Suburbia

MID-TERM BREAK

Week 8 My Beautiful Laundrette

Week 9 Sammie and Rosie Get Laid

Week 10 Young Soul Rebels

Week 11 Zadie Smith's White Teeth

Week 12 Dirty Pretty Things

Week 13 The London Eye