

London Across History, Literature, and Film

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: LNDN 3219

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 45

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 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.

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.

Required Reading / Materials

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

Grading

PENALTIES FOR WORK SUBMITTED LATE

Assignments received after the due date will be reduced by five percent (5%) of the possible grade for the piece of work being assessed per day, up to seven (7) days after the due date. Work submitted more than seven (7) days after the due date will not be marked, unless arrangements have been made prior to the due date for an extension.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Your participation mark is based on your preparation for class and your input into group discussion in all classes (excluding the class of your presentation - for which you will get a separate mark). You will need to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the set material for each week. Participation in class discussion will be marked on the constructiveness of your input to the class discussion and debate.

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Mid-term Paper	20%
Final Paper	30%
Presentation and Brief	15%
Participation	35%
Overall grade	100%

Course Content

Unit 1

Boat Trip from Westminster to Tower Bridge

Unit 2

Visit to Johnson's House and The Cheshire Cheese

Unit 3

Texts from Samuel Johnson (texts provided in class)

Unit 4

Blake, Wordsworth and Keats (texts provided in class)

Unit 5

Visit to the British Museum

Unit 6

Sherlock Holmes (texts provided in class)

Unit 7

Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia*

Unit 8

My Beautiful Laundrette

Unit 9

Sammie and Rosie Get Laid

Unit 10

Young Soul Rebels

Unit 11

Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*

Unit 12

Dirty Pretty Things

Unit 13

The London Eye

Policies

Attendance Policy

Students must attend all classes and gallery visits and be able to certificate genuine absences. Any absence should be justifiable in terms only of illness, religious holiday or an internship interview.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).