Creative Culture: Architecture in London Field Study

**Semester**  
SPRING 2016

**Class code**  
ARTH-UA 9671 - 001

**Class Details**  
Architecture in London: Field Study  
Wednesdays 2.00-5.00  
Room tbc.

**Prerequisites**  
A serious interest in learning about British architecture and the history of London; enthusiasm for the subject, an ability to use one’s eyes and ask questions, combined with a commitment to consult and to read recommended texts, plus a tolerance for wet and cold weather on field trips.

**Class Description**  
The course will trace the history planning and building in London from the 17th to the 20th centuries, investigating the history of western architecture during this period more broadly, and the social and economic background in Britain that shaped the city.

The classroom sessions will involve illustrated lectures, amplified by discussion. The field studies will develop the themes by visiting parts of London that display successive movements in style and social thinking. Small group tutorial sessions will be held in preparation for the essays.

**Desired Outcomes**  
A broad understanding of the history of London and of its architecture.

A greater understanding of the history of British architecture, and of British history, as illuminated by the actual experience of buildings in London.

A better ability to see: to use one’s eyes to study and understand buildings, combined with an ability to recognize and interpret architectural styles.

Basic knowledge of the literature in the field and its underlying methodologies.

**Assessment Components**  
First essay (up to 2,000 words): 30%; second essay (up to 3,000 words) 50%;  
final visual image test 20%.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

It is expected that essays should be clearly and well written with proper references. They should be based primarily on the student’s own reading of recommended print and internet sources, supported by additional visits to buildings.
The final one-hour test requires visual memory to identify buildings visited from photographs and drawings and to give essential information about them, plus a description of their main design features and their historical significance, following the themes presented in visits and classes.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

### Assessment Expectations

**Grade A:** Excellent work demonstrating a critical and observant approach to the subject, sound research and an ability to express thoughts cogently and persuasively.

**Grade B:** Very good work.

**Grade C:** Satisfactory work.

**Grade D:** Passable work.

**Grade F:** Failure to achieve a passable standard.

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

### Required Text(s)


### Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase as)

The five London volumes of the ‘Pevsner’ series *The Buildings of Britain*, published by Yale University Press.

Other reading is listed week by week according to topic, and also on essay briefing sheets. This includes
books not available in Senate House, so be prepared to use other reference libraries. The most useful is probably the RIBA at 66 Portland Place, W1. NYU Students may also request reference-only access to the Architectural Association Library at 36 Bedford Square (apply to Robert Pinkerton)

RIBA Library, 66 Portland Place, London W1.

http://www.architecture.com/RIBA/Visitus/Library/TheRIBALibrary.aspx

Other libraries with history of art specialism:

National Art Library, V&A Museum, SW7 (look at registration procedures before visiting)

http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/n/national-art-library/

Reference libraries with collections on the history of London:

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA. Reference collection in Local Studies

http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure/libraries-and-online-learning-centres/holborn-library;/jsessionid=9687AFFF5BF982305FAB77F8AFC6B006D

London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB. Open shelf book collection


Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, EC2V 7HH. In-depth resources for London history


Internet sources can be useful, but it is the student’s responsibility to decide whether the information is of good enough quality to be used in an essay. The most valuable single online source (where it covers the relevant area) is the series of volumes of The Survey of London, 1900-2013, available on http://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue.aspx?gid=74

While there is seldom enough time on field trips to make drawings, sketching and visual note taking are valuable ways of learning to see and understand the form of buildings and are encouraged outside class hours. Taking photos on visits will be helpful in remembering the buildings seen. These visual records may be included in essays as illustration.

Note: all sessions start from the designated classroom at NYU London, 6 Bedford Square, unless otherwise stated.

Session 1

Wednesday 3 February

The Shape of London and the impact of the Renaissance – lecture followed by visit to Covent Garden and Seven Dials

Session 2  
Wednesday 10 February

After the Great Fire: Christopher Wren in the City –, lecture followed by visit to St Paul’s Cathedral and Wren churches.


Session 3  
Wednesday 17 February

Nicholas Hawksmoor and English Baroque – visit to Christ Church Spitalfields, St George in the East and St Anne, Limehouse


Meet at 2.00 p.m. at Liverpool Street Station, outside Macdonalds at street level on Liverpool Street. Please ensure your Oyster card is topped up enough for four journeys (including journey to start of class and journey home at the end)

Session 4  
Wednesday 24 February

Georgian and Regency London, from the ‘Age of Improvement’ to John Nash – lecture followed by visit on foot


Session 5  
Wednesday 2 March

Mid-term practice for visual image recognition and significance test (not graded). Lecture - After the Age of Reason. Introduction to second essay.

Hand-in for first essay

Session 6  
Friday 4 March

Meet up class

Meet at 2.00 p.m. at Great Portland Street Station. Return of first essay

Session 7  
Wednesday 9 March

Railway Stations – lecture and visit to St Pancras and King’s Cross

Oliver Green, *Discovering London Railway Stations*

Session 8  
Wednesday 16 March

Albertopolis: visit to Victoria and Albert Museum and Natural History Museum


Meet at 2.00 p.m. at South Kensington Station (in Thurloe Street, outside Underground entrance)
Session 9

Wednesday 23 March

All that is solid melts into air: London architecture and the coming of Modernity - lecture

Marshall Berman, *All that is solid melts into air*, 1983 [introduction and chapter 2]
Alan Powers, *Britain, Modern Architectures in History*, 2007 [chapters 1 & 2]

Session 10

Wednesday 6 April

Modernism in the 1930s: visit to Hampstead

Alan Powers, *Modern, the Modern Movement in Britain*, 2005

Meet at 2.00 p.m. at Hampstead underground station (Northern Line, Edgware Branch)

Session 11

Wednesday 20 April

Post-war reconstruction: visit to Spa Green, Golden Lane and Barbican

David Heathcote, *Barbican, Penthouse over the city*, Wiley 2004/2014

Meet at 2.00 p.m. at Angel Underground street entrance

Session 12

Wednesday 27 April

City Architecture since the 1970s


Meet at 2.00 p.m. at Liverpool Street Station, as for week 3

Session 13

Wednesday 4 May

Essay seminar – student presentations and discussion

Session 14

Wednesday 11 May

Preparation briefing for test/exam; lecture London – the last 70 years and the future

Submission of second essay

Session 15

Wednesday 18 May

Examination: visual image recognition and significance test

Classroom

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Etiquette</th>
<th>Food &amp; drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class. Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies. Laptops are only to be used with the express permission of the teacher and must be entirely SILENT. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Co-curricular Activities</td>
<td>Buildings and institutions which students should visit and explore during the semester outside the course visits include such major monuments as the Banqueting House in Whitehall, the British Museum, the Houses of Parliament (New Palace of Westminster), Sir John Soane’s Museum, the Royal Festival Hall, the National Theatre etc.</td>
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<td>Estimated Travel Costs</td>
<td>Many of the starting points for visits can be reached easily on foot from 6 Bedford Square and nearby halls of residence. Six of the visits begin from a station in Zone 1 (£2.20 one way), one of which involves an onward journey to zone 2 (£2.20) and return (£2.20), and one starts and finishes in zone 3 (£2.80). This makes a maximum spend of approximately £36.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suggested Co-curricular Activities</td>
<td>Early evening lectures are organized weekly by the Victorian Society, the Twentieth Century Society and other conservation charities on relevant subjects. See the websites for more information. There is a programme of events about contemporary architecture (lectures, exhibitions etc.) free and open to the public at the Architectural Association, 34-36 Bedford Square. There are free lectures and midday seminars at the Paul Mellon Centre for British Art, 16 Bedford Square.</td>
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**NYU LONDON ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgments, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

**Electronic Submission**

The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student. Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

 study abroad at Global Academic Centres is an academically intensive and immersive experience. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. As classes typically meet once a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course.

To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance is mandatory and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

How to report an absence
Absences from class must be reported to NYU London administrative staff using the online Absence Form: http://tinyurl.com/nyulabsence

Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported using this form. Students should NOT approach their class instructor for an excused absence. However, students should contact their class instructor to catch up on missed work.

Medical absences
If you are unable to attend a class due to ill-health, you must provide details of your illness and class(es) missed to NYUL staff using the online Absence Form WITHIN SEVEN DAYS of your return to class.

Please do not use the form to report a medical emergency or to request urgent assistance. In a medical emergency call 999 and ask for an ambulance. NYU London staff are available to offer support, whatever time of day. If you would like to speak to a member of staff urgently to request support with a medical problem, please call 0800 316 0469, selecting option 2.

Non-medical absences
If you have to miss class for an unavoidable, non-medical reason you must provide details to NYUL staff using the online Absence Form at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question. Examples of valid non-medical reasons are as follows: religious holiday; family wedding; scholarship competition; family emergency. If in doubt please speak to a member of Academics staff or email academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences
NYU London staff carefully monitor student attendance and absence records. In most cases full completion of the online Absence Form will be sufficient to excuse your absence. However, in certain circumstances, you will be asked to provide additional information/verification before it can be excused. If we notice that you have multiple absences you will be contacted to arrange a meeting with a member of staff.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. Students may not take an exam before or after other students in the class, and may not leave the programme before all course work has been submitted.

Please refer to the NYU Wikis Page for the full absence policy: https://wikis.nyu.edu/x/awRgAw

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Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the midpoint of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

| Grading Policy | NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. |