Writing London

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<th>Semester</th>
<th>SPRING 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class code</td>
<td>ENGL-UA 9182 - 001</td>
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<td>Class Details</td>
<td>Writing London – Fall 2015</td>
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<td>Wednesday 2-5pm</td>
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<td>Location to be confirmed.</td>
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<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>None</td>
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**Class Description**

This course will study a variety of texts written at particular times in the history of London. The aims of the course are to encourage the student to think historically, in terms of the way London and representations of the city have changed and developed over time; and theoretically, in terms of the way the city is mediated through different forms and genres (e.g. poetry, novels, essays, film; satire, detective and crime fiction), and the interrelationship of literary and material spaces. We will also examine the significance of gender, the definition of the modern metropolis as a labyrinthine city of Babylon, the influence of metropolitan culture on Modernism and Modernity, assimilation versus multiculturalism, immigration, and the effects of new modern spaces on individuals.

The course will be conducted mainly as a seminar, in which students will participate through oral presentations and class discussion, with introductory lectures when appropriate. Please note that this course includes several novels of varying lengths, and you are advised to start reading them ahead of time.

**Desired Outcomes**

The goal is to bring a body of significant literary works in close relation to the urban environment, the architectural transformation, the metropolitan politics, and the extra-literary cultural life of the city. We will try to understand why London authors often conceived this city as text and how the task of living up to London and of finding a form of representation adequate to its radical social heterogeneity has often become a defining measure of imaginative ambition.

**Assessment Components**

- Class participation counting 10% of total marks
- One paper 1000-1500 words counting 30% of total marks (3-4 pages)
- One final research paper 2000-3000 words counting 45% of total marks (6-8 pages)
- Class Presentation counting 15% of total marks (10-15 minutes)

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

**Assessment**

Grade A: Demonstration of detailed familiarity with the text under review; ability to establish and
argue an independent line of thought; ability to engage critically with secondary reading material; fluent and articulate expression of ideas. Positive participation in the classroom is essential.

**Grade B:** Demonstration of familiarity with text under review; support for argument from secondary critical material; clear expression. Positive participation in the classroom is essential.

**Grade C:** Basic understanding of text under review; ideas in paper may lack organization and appear random and disconnected at times; occasionally deviating from main theme and title of paper; writing lacks clear expression. Positive participation in the classroom is important.

**Grade D:** Little reference to the text other than what could be gleaned from an outline or summary of the plot; advancing ideas that have insufficient relevance to the title; being simplistic (writing in a way that does not do justice to the complexity of the text); careless expression.

**Grade F:** Little or no reference to the text under review; deviation from or ignoring the title/subject of the paper; clear indication that the student has not read, or has clearly failed to understand, the text under review; poor and ungrammatical expression.

**Required Text(s)**

- Edgar Allan Poe, *The Man of the Crowd* (handout to be provided)
- T. S. Eliot, *Selected Poems* (handouts will be provided)
- Virginia Woolf, ‘Street Haunting: A London Adventure’ (handout will be provided)
- Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners* (Penguin, 0141188413)

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)**

- Malcolm Cross & Michael Keith, eds., *Racism, the City and the State* (1992)
- D. Massey, *Space, Place and Gender* (1994)
Deborah L. Parsons, *Streetwalking the Metropolis: Women, the City and Modernity* (2000)
Georg Simmel, ‘The Metropolis and Mental Life’ (1903)
Elizabeth Wilson, *The Sphinx in the City: Urban Disorder, the Control of Life and Women* (1992)

**Internet Research Guidelines**

Use of online resources for written work and oral presentations is encouraged alongside library books and periodicals. However, students should be able to discriminate between academic resources such as online scholarly journal articles and Wikipedia-style websites; the latter should be used cautiously and not be regarded as substitutes for, or equivalent to, more reliable sources.

**Additional Required Equipment**

Use of laptop for class presentation. You may use your own laptop or NYUL classroom equipment.

**Session 1**

3 February

Introduction to the course. SET TEXT: Selected poems and passages from William Blake, William Wordsworth, Joseph Conrad, Ian McEwan; selected passages from urban theorists Georg Simmel, Michel de Certeau and others (these are all handouts). No prior reading required.

**Session 2**

10 February


**Session 3**

17 February

London Nightmares: SET TEXT: Thomas De Quincey, *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (1822); Edgar Allan Poe, ‘The Man in the Crowd’ (1840) (handout provided)

**Session 4**

24 February

Charles Dickens and Victorian London: SET TEXT: Charles Dickens, selections from *Sketches by Boz* (1836) excerpts from *Bleak House* (1852-3); ‘People of the City’ in Williams, *The Country and the City* (handout provided)

**Session 5**

2 March

Tour of Dickens's London. Meet outside Temple tube station at 2pm

**Session 6**

9 March

**ESSAY 1 DUE**

Dickens and Crime, SET TEXT: Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* (1837-8)

**Session 7**

16 March

Fin de siècle London: SET TEXT: Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886)

**Session 8**

Unreal City: SET TEXT: T. S. Eliot, ‘The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock’ (1917) (handout provided); ‘Preludes’ (1917)(handout provided); excerpts from *The Waste Land* (1922) (handout provided)
23 March

**Session 9**
Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury: SET TEXT: Virginia Woolf, ‘Street-Haunting: a London Adventure’ (1927) (handout provided); excerpts from *The London Scene* (handout provided)

6 April

**Session 10**

13 April

**Session 11**

20 April

**Session 12**

27 April

**Session 13**

4 May

**Session 14**

11 May
Handing in of Final Assignments. **ESSAY 2 DUE**

**Session 15**
Concluding *Writing London*. Showing of Fritz Lang’s *Metropolis* (1927)

18 May

**Classroom Etiquette**
Laptops may be used for classwork only

**Required Co-curricular Activities**
Information about current London-related literary and cultural events and places to visit will be communicated and circulated throughout the semester.

**NYU LONDON ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity**
At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others.

At NYU London, students will submit electronic copies of their written work to Turnitin via their NYU Classes course site. Instructions will be provided to you separately.
Late Submission of Work

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, 10:00 – 17:00). 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.

Attendance Policy

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. Failure to provide requested documentation for these types of absences will result in the absence remaining unexcused.

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

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any
penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

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 midpoint of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

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

NYU requires all instructors to submit midterm grades for their students. Midterm grading is considered an educational best practice, and plays an important role in schools’ early intervention programs, which enable advisers to identify and to respond to students in crisis.