Architecture in London: Field Study

**Class code**
V43.9671.001

**Instructor Details**
Professor Gavin Stamp
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**Class Details**
Spring 2011
Monday afternoons 2.00 to 5.00 p.m.
Location to be confirmed.

**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 a tolerance for atrocious weather on field trips, combined with a commitment to consult and to read recommended texts.

**Class Description**
The course will examine the history of London as exemplified by surviving buildings which can be seen and visited, principally from the 17th to the 20th centuries; it will consist of an equal mixture of classroom lectures and field studies.

The classroom sessions will involve illustrated lectures, amplified by discussion. The field studies will comprise visits to the sites and buildings, and types of buildings, discussed in the lectures.

**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 recognise and interpret architectural styles.

Understanding and enjoying buildings, together with an understanding of the nature and expressive possibilities of the Classical language of architecture.

A detailed understanding of the topics chosen for the mandatory essays.

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

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.

Grade conversion

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).

Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range.

We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to insure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-. (Stern has a different grading policy that we follow in all Stern courses, please see below).

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that-it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

Stern School of Business classes adhere to the following Stern grading guidelines:

There should be no more than

- 25-35% A's - awarded for excellent work
- 50-70% B's - awarded for good or very good work
- 5-15% C's or below - awarded for adequate or below work
NYU-L has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** Students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work but should **NOT** approach them for excused absences. Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill-health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons will not be considered.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.

**All absences due to illness must be reported on the first day of absence via phone (Freephone 0800 316 0469) or email (nyu.in.london@nyu.edu).** Absences due to illness must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Student Life. You will be asked to complete an Excused Absence Form (which can be obtained from NYU in London staff) and you will also need to produce a valid doctor’s note, having sought treatment for the illness within one week of your return to class.

**Absence requests for non-illness purposes** must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs **prior** to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for non-illness purposes can be applied retrospectively.

Unexcused absences will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.). In the past, students have asked about early departure from the program at the end of the semester. This will not normally be allowed. Under no circumstances will we allow a student to take a final exam at any time other than it has been scheduled - neither before the other students in the class, nor afterwards. Students have been informed not to make return travel plans before the end of the exam week. Exams may not be held during your regularly scheduled class meeting. Please do not make plans during the exam period until you know the exact times of your exams.

NYU-L also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for further details.
Late Submission of Work

(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs in office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above. Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

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

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

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

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

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 (see section 12 below) 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

All students must submit an electronic copy of their written work to www.turnitin.com. This 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. The database is managed by JISC (Joint Information Systems Council) and has been established with the support of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

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 ‘New Users’ 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.

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**Required Text(s)**


N.B., the last title (recently published) is rather expensive and so need not be purchased, but it is strongly recommended as there is no other general history of Victorian architecture available.

All these books will help greatly to form an understanding of English architecture from the 16th until the early 20th century. They should be consulted first for both essay projects and to find out about buildings to be seen on field trips, and they are books worth possessing to develop a further interest in and knowledge of British architectural history. Those by Sir John Summerson – one of the finest writers on architecture in English of the last century – are well worth reading from cover to cover.

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**Further Reading**

**Recommended reading for each subject, as given for each session below and as announced in class sessions and set with essay assignments.**

*These books are recommended for consultation both for essay subjects (although further recommendations will be given when essay titles are set) and to find out more about particular buildings or styles. They are not necessarily intended to be read throughout.*

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**Internet Research Guidelines**

Consulting and reading real books is expected for this course. Any information about architectural history found on the Internet should therefore be treated with very great caution. Trawling the Internet for material for essays is never any substitute for reading and learning from proper books, and the results are usually obvious in their derivation from cyberspace. Material culled from the internet will **NOT** generally be acceptable in essays. Properly referenced and accredited on-line journals may be worth consulting, however.

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**Additional Required Equipment**

Note book for field trips; sketch book and camera if desired.
Session 1

Monday
24th January
2011

Lecture: Introduction to the history of London and the history of British architecture; problems of interpretation; issues of planning and architectural preservation. This will be followed by films of London in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

John Summerson, *The Classical Language of Architecture*

Steen Eiler Rasmussen, *London: The Unique City* [chapters 1, 6 & 16]

Gavin Stamp, *The Changing Metropolis: Earliest photographs of London 1839-1879*

[Peter Ackroyd, *London: The Biography*]

Summerson’s short book should be regarded as **essential reading** to develop an understanding of the essence and interpretation of Classical architecture; the others to provide a richer understanding of London if desired (Ackroyd’s being the interpretation of a modern novelist).

Session 2

Visit: the City of London – St Paul’s Cathedral, the Guildhall, some City Churches, the Monument, London Bridge, Southwark and the Globe Theatre.

Monday
31st January


The series of ‘Pevsners’ on the *Buildings of England* are essential and comprehensive guides which cover most of Britain. They are not books to read throughout but to be consulted to find out about particular buildings to be seen on this and subsequent field trips - for which, N.B., separate itineraries will be issued.

**Meet at 2.00 p.m. in Ludgate Circus by City Thameslink Station.**

Session 3

Lecture: Sir Christopher Wren, the Great Fire, Nicholas Hawksmoor and the English Baroque.

Monday
7th February

James W.P. Campbell, *Building St Paul’s*

John Summerson, *Sir Christopher Wren* [a short book: chapters 3, 4 & 5]

Kerry Downes, *Nicholas Hawksmoor* [chapters 5 & 6]


Session 4


Monday
14th February


**Meet at 2.00 p.m. in front of the Royal Exchange, above Bank underground station.**

Session 5


Monday
21st February

S.E. Rasmussen, *London: The Unique City* [chapters 9, 10, 12 & 16]
Session 6
Monday 28th February
Lecture: the work of Sir William Chambers and Sir John Soane; then the beginnings of the Gothic Revival.
Margaret Richardson, ed., *John Soane: Architect* [pages 16-25, 150-185 & 208-251]
John Summerson, *Sir John Soane*
Kenneth Clark, *The Gothic Revival* [chapters 6 & 7]
H.S. Goodhart-Rendel, *English Architecture since the Regency* [chapter 3]
Michael Hall, ed., *Gothic Architecture and its Meaning* [introduction]
Rosemary Hill, *God’s Architect: Pugin & the Building of Romantic Britain* [relevant chapters]

Session 7
Monday 7th March
Visit: St Martin-in-the-Fields, Royal Opera Arcade, the Adelphi, St Mary-le-Strand, Somerset House, the Temple, the Royal Courts of Justice, Sir John Soane’s Museum in Lincoln’s Inn Fields, St George’s Bloomsbury, the British Museum, &c.
Meet at St Martin-in-the Fields, Trafalgar Square, at 2.00 p.m.

Session 8
Monday 14th March
Lecture: The work of Pugin, High Victorian churches, then High Victorian secular Gothic and 19th century public buildings.
Priscilla Metcalf, *Victorian London*
H.S. Goodhart-Rendel, *English Architecture since the Regency* [chapters 4 & 5]
John Summerson, *Victorian Architecture: Four Studies in Evaluation* [chapters 1 & 2]
John Betjeman, *First and Last Loves* [chapters 9 & 12]

Session 9
Monday 21st March
Visit: 19th Century churches – St Pancras New Church; the Catholic Apostolic Church, Gordon Square; All Saints’ Margaret Street; Holy Trinity Sloane Street; Westminster Cathedral
J.S. Curl, *The English Heritage Book of Victorian Churches* [chapters 5, 6 & 7]
Michael J. Lewis, *The Gothic Revival*
Meet outside St Pancras New Church, Euston Square, at 2.00 p.m.

Session 10
Monday 28th March
Lecture: the Iron Age, then Imperial London.
Jack Simmons & Robert Thorne, *St Pancras Station* [chapters 2 & 3]
Session 11
Visit: Victorian railway stations – Paddington, Victoria, London Bridge, King’s Cross, St Pancras.

Monday
4th April
John Betjeman, London’s Historic Railway Stations
Meet on the westbound platform of Edgware Road underground station (Circle & District Lines) at 2.00 p.m.

Session 12
Visit: Regent’s Park, then Apsley House and Hyde Park Corner.

FRIDAY
8th April
John Summerson, The Life and Work of John Nash [chapters 9 & 12]
Meet outside Great Portland Street underground station, at 2.00 p.m.

Session 13
Visit: ‘Albertopolis’: South Kensington, then Bedford Park

Monday
11th April
Chris Brooks, ed, The Albert Memorial [chapters 3, 6 & 9]
Mark Girouard, Sweetness and Light [chapters 1 & 7]
Meet in the arcade above South Kensington Station, at 2.00 p.m.

Session 14
Lecture: Twentieth Century London, concluding with two films: one about the Festival of Britain and London in 1951: Brief City, and the other John Betjeman’s Metroland.

Monday
9th May
Andrew Saint, ed., London Suburbs [chapter 3]
[N.B. the second essay is to be handed in this afternoon]

Session 15
Examination: visual image recognition test

Monday
16th May

Classroom Etiquette
Eating is not permitted in any classrooms in 6 Bedford Square or at Birkbeck College. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

Required Co-curricular
Buildings and institutions which students should surely wish to visit and explore during the semester outside the course visits include such major monuments as the Banqueting House in Whitehall, the Museum of London, the British Museum, the Houses of Parliament (New Palace of Westminster),
Activities
Westminster Abbey, the Queen’s House and the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, Sir John Soane’s Museum, the Dulwich Picture Gallery, and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

N.B. that the college organises co-curricular activities and these include a visit to the New Palace of Westminster [date to be confirmed] and is compulsory.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
Attending any interesting or relevant evening lectures organised by amenity societies such as the Georgian Group, the Victorian Society and the Twentieth Century Society; seeing more of British architecture – cities, cathedrals, country houses - outside London: Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, York, Newcastle, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow…