Location: NYU London

Class code: ARTH-UA9674L01/SASEM-UG9250L01

Instructor Details: Emily Gee MA, Grad Dipl Cons (AA) dist, IHBC, FSA

Class Details: NB travel time will be outside class times and students are responsible for travel costs.

The first class will meet at NYU in London, 6 Bedford Square, and a few future classes will meet here in part for lectures; however, most future classes will be in different London locations, as noted below.

Prerequisites: No prerequisites for this class, but basic drawing skills, map reading skills and visual awareness are all essential.

Class Description: This course is designed to work in three ways. First, it is an opportunity to learn about London’s architecture and history by physically exploring the city’s historic and modern built environment. Second, this class is an introduction to sketching and keeping a travel notebook, a fulfilling skill that any liberal arts student should experience. Third, and perhaps most important, this course teaches students how to ‘read’ a building and a town or city. The ability to visually make sense of the built environment of this major capital should help in understanding the architecture of New York City and other towns and cities throughout the world. Our course is formed of a series of site visits through London’s extraordinary and diverse environment, considering significant architectural developments from many periods, while learning to record and describe what we see. We will study the architectural vocabulary of London and learn how to accurately and elegantly depict buildings and places in both word and image. Please note that it is very important that students attend the first class, which covers the introductory information, lecture and drawing session. It is advised to attend even if on the waiting list.

Desired Outcomes:
- To gain a good understanding of the architectural history and conservation history of London;
- To have an introduction to sketching and keeping a travel sketchbook and notebook;
- To learn to ‘read’ and record a city’s history, buildings and places, as well as its changing values over time. By understanding the historical development, materials and styles of the buildings in London one can begin to enjoy a sophisticated understanding of town and cities wherever one finds oneself in the world.

Assessment Components:

The Programme:
Fourteen afternoon sessions of ‘field’ visits around London, which will include an introductory session at 6 Bedford Square and several further lectures as part of the class.

Location and Themes:
The field visits will focus on different areas of London and the city’s urban development from the Anglo-Saxon, Roman and Medieval periods through to the early twenty-first century, with an emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will consider the themes of housing, transport, commerce and shopping, industry, open space development and religious, civic and cultural institutions as we visit, study and record diverse parts of this great city. We will make use of historic maps and will consider preservation and conservation issues as we go.
Course Requirements:

1) Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the broad circumstances of London’s architectural history and development. There are required reading assignments for each session included on the itinerary for individual sessions below, and further readings will be encouraged each week. Students are expected to complete all the required readings and be prepared to discuss these in class. Each week, students will be expected to present key points to their classmates, and on at least one occasion will be responsible for introducing a building or concept to the class based on their readings.

2) Students will take a written 1-hour mid-term quiz on the required reading assignments and the buildings covered in our weekly visits.

3) Students are expected to keep sketchbooks containing assigned sketches of places and buildings visited during the course as well as related photographs, field notes and writings. The contents of the sketchbook will form a major element of each student’s grading. Please clearly write your name, the NYU office address and your telephone number on the inside front cover of the sketchbook. Additionally, each sketch should be initialed and dated.

   The Instructor will discuss and provide informal assessment and feedback on your sketchbooks early on in the course. Sketchbooks should be handed to the Instructor for final assessment at the end of Session 14. The grade will be based on the quality and breadth of coverage in your sketchbook, your responsiveness to feedback, progress in recording buildings and places and the presentation of these elements in your sketchbook. All required sketches must be finished, with an expectation that students will include additional sketches as well. This achievement will consider how you have developed the following aspects of recording:
   - Visual representations in the form of sketches (elevations, perspectives and general views, plans and maps and details as assigned plus additional)
   - Written annotations of relevant physical and historical facts that are discussed during the visits to different sites, which should include:
     - Name of building or place,
     - Date of building,
     - Name of architect, designer, client, and
     - Description: including scale, form, structure, materials, construction, etc.
     - Written descriptions and notes of personal impressions of the places visited.

   This course is interested in the development of skills in recording and not necessarily with artistic ability. Drawings should be supplemented with thoughtful observations and notes from required readings and discussions during the visits. The location and subject and a concise description should be noted for each sketch. Sketchbooks should include all drawings and notes from our field visits as well as additional loose sketches, annotated historic maps, clippings and photographs, etc.

4) All students will be required to write an essay of 2000 words length (approximately 10-12 pages) on a London building. Students should start thinking of a topic of interest early on and discuss this with the instructor. An outline of what is required will be provided and discussed in class, and a one-page proposal is due on the date indicated below. Essays must be handed to the Instructor for marking at the beginning of Session 13.

5) Each week’s field visit will include a walking tour / lecture on the buildings and area of our focus with assigned sketches for one or more periods in each class. Students are also expected to make short sketches and other notes as we travel together. Students are also each responsible for making a 5-minute presentation on one of the building which requires preparation and good presentation skills.
Students are expected to participate with observations and paying close attention as much as they would in a seated seminar. Assessment of the sketchbook will consider the attention and engagement of the student and their application in recording during each class.

Grading:
- Session 6: midterm quiz – 20% of grade
- Session 13: essay on London building due – 40% of grade
- Session 14: final sketchbook review – 40% of grade

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

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** Excellent – a deep level of comprehension of London's history and architecture, strong participation in class and thorough engagement with the content, sketching and note-taking throughout the term.

**Grade B:** Good – a good understanding of London’s history and architecture, good level of participation and a well-presented sketchbook with good notes.

**Grade C:** Average

**Grade D:** Below Average

**Grade F:** Failure

**Required Text(s)**

Individual readings:
- About half of the required reading is available through NYU Classes. These readings are indicated in the assignments list by [R]. Readings are included in order and it is essential that you read these before each class and come prepared to discuss the material.

There are three required paperback texts, listed below, which students should purchase, or find in the library. These readings are indicated in the assignments list by [T].

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

Additionally, there are a number of important books for further recommended reading available at the Senate House Library, which will aid in the development of essay ideas and supplement your own interests. You may choose to purchase some of these for your personal academic library and reference, and used copies are often available in second-hand bookshops. Those with an asterisk are particularly recommended.

- Volumes of *The Buildings of England* series. These are essential guides, with London divided into 7 volumes, including one devoted to the City Churches.
- Volumes of *The Survey of London*. *First published in 1897, this is a major published record London parishes with detailed history and measured drawings.*


Internet Research Guidelines

Useful web resources that students should consult for general knowledge and research for essay:
http://www.ribapix.com/ (Royal Institute of British Architects catalogue of photos/drawings)
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/ (a register that includes descriptions of all listed buildings in England)
http://www.british-history.ac.uk/ (digital library of primary and secondary sources)
http://www.motco.com/MAP/ (historic maps of London)
http://www.pastscape.org.uk/ (records relating to buildings and archaeology in England)
http://viewfinder.historicengland.org.uk (historic photos of England from the 1850s to present, with good buildings coverage)

Additional Required Equipment

Materials

You must use a good quality, hard-backed sketchbook and pencils or fine tipped pens. These can be bought locally from a classic artist’s material shop just around the corner from NYU-L: L. Cornelissen and Son, 105 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3RY, tel. 020 7636 1045. The recommended sketchbook is A4 (not A3, as this will not be allowed in the Soane Museum) of good weight, thickness and quality. Please do not buy one of the fat sketchbooks (your instructor will need to carry all of them at once!). Your sketchbook should have hard or heavy stiff card-backed end covers, which will give much better support as you sketch. It is usually easier to work with one that is spiral bound along its short side, or ‘landscape’, format. It is essential that you write your name, the NYU in London address and your telephone number on the inside cover. This sketchbook will form a very important part of your final assessment, as well as a unique record of your time in London, so you must not lose it.

You will also need: sketching pencils, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, and a camera to record buildings for your own use and learning, as well as for completing sketches after class.

Money for Travel

While some weeks our visits will be within walking distance of campus, students are responsible for travel money and should budget about £5.00 a class for bus or Underground fares. As we are often working outside in all weathers, students may also want to budget about £3.00 a class for hot or cold drinks, or should carry a water bottle or a thermos flask. All site visits not within walking distance can be reached by the Underground and buses. Students should have Oyster Card for public transport. I have noted the closest station for most visits below.

Clothing and shoes

Because this class is often outside, preparation with appropriate clothing and shoes is essential and an important aspect of class participation. The weather on class days may well be cold and rainy and you should check the weather report in advance to be prepared. Dress sensibly as we will be out of doors most of the time and wear comfortable shoes as we will be walking quite a lot. London’s damp climate can be deceiving: it may seem warm when you first step outside but will soon feel much colder when you are sketching, standing or sitting in an outdoor location for a few hours. Warm fleeces, down vests and hats are essential for staying warm and healthy in the colder parts of the term. You will also need a waterproof shell with hood to combine with these warm layers for rainy days. Fingerless gloves are a good idea for drawing and writing outside. Water is essential for hot days, and hot drinks are advisable for cold days. Being cold and damp, if you are unprepared, is not a reasonable excuse for not participating in class!

Session 1

Introduction – lecture on London’s architectural development and introductory exercises on understanding, reading and recording buildings through sketching in Bedford Square.

Meet: at our NYU in London classroom, Bedford Square
Readings:
[R] Illustrations from David Brock, English Heritage *The Resurvey Glossary*
[R] Watson – Artist’s *Sketchbook* selected pages
[R] list description for the buildings of Bedford Square
[T] Summerson – *Georgian London* Ch. 1 Air View pp. 1-9; Ch. 5 The London House and its Builders pp. 49-68; Ch. 12 Great Estates pp. 179-195.

**Session 2**

**The Civic and Royal Capital** – Jewel Tower (visit arranged), Palace of Westminster and Whitehall, Banqueting House

Readings:
[R] Summerson – *Architecture in Britain 1530-1830* Chapter 8 The Surveyorship of Inigo Jones pp. 119-139.

**Session 3**

**Kings Cross and St Pancras Stations** – the architecture of these two major railway stations and their associated hotels, considering their engineering, architecture and recent regeneration
Meet: outside the main entrance to Kings Cross Station on Euston [Kings Cross St. Pancras TUBE & 5 mins walk]

Readings:

**Session 4**

**London Zoological Society** – the architecture of the zoo, ranging from the original buildings of the 1830s, inter-war modernism by Lubetkin and Brutalism.
Meet: outside the main entrance to the London Zoo [Camden Town TUBE & 15 mins walk]

Readings:

**Session 5**

**The Regent’s Park and RIBA** – The John Nash buildings of The Regent’s Park then session at the RIBA Headquarters (Grey Wornum, 1935, Portland Place) to consider the architecture, see some Nash drawings, and learn about resources for your essays (visit arranged, 3:30)
Meet: at Gloucester Gate, the NE entrance to The Regent’s Park [Camden Town TUBE & 10 mins walk]

Readings:

**Essay proposal guidelines handed out. Proposal due in Session 8.**

**Session 6**

**Living in London** – lecture on lodging houses in London and sketching at the Brunswick Centre
Meet: at our NYU in London classroom, Bedford Square

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Readings:

** Mid term quiz (20% of grade) **

Session 7
Victoria & Albert Museum and architectural drawing – special session looking at historic architectural drawings (visit arranged, 2:30) and considering how to apply to your own sketchbooks. Study and sketching of the V&A building and its architectural collections.
Meet: inside the main entrance to V&A Museum [South Kensington TUBE & 5 mins walk]

** Essay proposal due (refer to handout for format and requirements) **
** No class next week **

Session 8
Lincoln’s Inn and Sir John Soane – The buildings of Lincoln’s Inn and Sir John Soane’s Museum, Lincoln’s Inn Fields (visit arranged)
Meet: Sir John Soane’s Museum, 13 Lincoln’s Inn Fields. From Holborn tube take the left exit onto Kingsway. Take your 3rd left into Remnant Street, which brings you into Lincolns Inn Fields and the museum is along on your left [Holborn TUBE & 5 mins walk]

Readings:
[T] Summerson – Georgian London Ch. 11 Building during the French Wars 1793-1815 pp. 165-77

** No class next week **

Session 9
City of London – Smithfield Market, the Barbican and St. Paul’s Cathedral
Meet: at north entrance to Smithfield Market, Charterhouse Street [Farringdon TUBE & 5 mins walk]

Readings:
[R] Summerson – Architecture in Britain 1530-1830 Ch. 14 St. Paul’s Cathedral pp. 221-38

Session 10
Valuing and Conserving London – Lecture and discussion on the history of listing and conservation issues in London then sketching at Senate House, University of London or British Museum.
Meet: at our NYU in London classroom, Bedford Square

Readings:
[R] Conservation timeline prepared by Emily Gee, English Heritage
[R] Gavin Stamp – Lost Victorian Britain: How the Twentieth Century Destroyed the Nineteenth Century’s Architectural Masterpieces Introduction pp. 7-29

Session 11
**American history in London buildings** – A special tour of the Benjamin Franklin House, a Georgian town house with original staircase, paneling and other features historic associations and interpretation programme (visit arranged, 2:00) then Trafalgar Square including George Washington statue and St. Martin-in-the-Fields

**Meet:** outside 36 Craven Street ready to start at 2 p.m. [Charing Cross TUBE & 5 mins walk, please check map ahead of time to not be late for start of visit]

**Readings:**
[T] Summerson – *Georgian London* Ch. 6 ‘Fifty New Churches’ and Some Others pp.69-86

**Session 12**

Spitalfields and Shoreditch – Eighteenth century silk weaving area and nineteenth century furniture manufacturing area with distinctive buildings in each, then up to the Geffrye Museum (visit arranged) for domestic interiors.

**Meet:** at Bishopsgate Street entrance to Liverpool Street TUBE

**Readings:**
[R] Smith, Joanna. *Behind the Veneer: The South Shoreditch Furniture Trade and Its Buildings* pp. 1-11

**Session 13**

South Bank – The modern cultural hub of the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre and National Theatre along the South Bank of the Thames.

**Meet:** The Victory Arch entrance to Waterloo Station [Waterloo, north side of station towards Waterloo Rd.]

**Readings:**

**Essay on London building due (40% of grade) – Hand in original copy with Turnitin receipt to Instructor**

**Session 14**

St. Pancras Old Church – An exploration of church architecture through this remarkable London church, mostly Victorian but with Roman origins, medieval fabric and historically significant tombs.

**Meet:** at the entrance to St. Pancras Old Church, Pancras Road (to the north of St. Pancras station) [Kings Cross St. Pancras and 5-10 minute walk]

**Readings:**

**Final Sketch book review (40% of grade) – hand in completed sketchbooks to Instructor**

**Session 15**

No final exam and no class meeting

**Classroom Etiquette**

Much of our class is spent outside, often on busy, noisy streets. It is essential that students keep close to the Instructor, walk briskly and keep up with the group to avoid delays at each stop, and pay extremely careful attention when crossing roads. Students should always take personal responsibility for their own safe passage across roads, rather than automatically crossing with the group. Active
participation is essential and students should respectfully not talk when the Instructor is introducing a building on the route or on site. Notes should be taken in the sketchbook and not on telephones.

It is very important that all students arrive in time to start punctually at 2 p.m. as often we will start walking at that time. If delayed for unavoidable reasons, students should telephone the Instructor on the number provided above to get directions on where to catch up the group.

Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class, although hot drinks and cold water are allowed when sketching outside. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies. Students should keep notes in their sketchbooks, not on telephones or laptops.

Use your sketchbook outside of our class hours, making notes and describing the places you visit and explore.

Students are responsible for their own travel costs to and from site visits. These will amount to about £5.00 per class when we are meeting on site, although a number of classes are held within walking distance of 6 Bedford Square. Students should purchase an Oyster Card for less expensive travel on public transport.

There are also opportunities to attend evening lectures, walking tours and exhibitions and your Instructor will periodically suggest additional ways to learn more about London’s history, art and architecture in this way, which students are strongly encouraged to pursue.

Your Instructor has worked at Historic England (formerly English Heritage) since 2001, mainly in listing, and is now London Planning Director. Emily studied in the US (Smith College, BA; University of Virginia, MA Architectural History) and has a Diploma in Building Conservation from the Architectural Association in London. She has published on the history of purpose-built housing for working women in Victorian and Edwardian London and leads Historic England’s activity on twentieth century architecture. Emily has taught at NYU in London since Spring 2011.

**NYU GLOBAL ACADEMIC POLICIES**

Policies and procedures for Global Academic Centres, including policies on academic integrity and the Study Away Standard, can be found here: https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/student-services.html

Absences: Key information on NYU London’s absence policy, how to report absences, and what kinds of absences can be excused can be found here: http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/attendance-policy.html

NYU London work submission policies can be found here: http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/academic-policies.html

Classroom conduct: Academic communities exist to facilitate the process of acquiring and exchanging knowledge and understanding, to enhance the personal and intellectual development of its members, and to advance the interests of society. Essential to this mission is that all members of the University Community are safe and free to engage in a civil process of teaching and learning through their experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Accordingly, no student should engage in any form of behaviour that interferes with the academic or educational process, compromises the personal safety or well-being of another, or disrupts the administration of University programs or services.
Please refer to the NYU London Disruptive Student Behaviour Policy at https://goo.gl/Nvt5Vu for examples of disruptive behaviour and guidelines for response and enforcement.