**Class code**  
ENGL-UA 9182 - 001

**Instructor Details**  
Leya Landau

**Class Details**  
Writing London – Spring 2014  
Wednesday 2-5pm  
Location to be confirmed.

**Prerequisites**  
None

**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 Expectations

**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 the 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 Texts(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 must 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 equipment

**Session 1**
29 January
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**
5 February

**Session 3**
12 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**
19 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**
26 February
Tour of Dickens’s London

**Session 6**
5 March
Dickens and Crime, SET TEXT: Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* (1837-8)

**ESSAY 1 DUE**

**Session 7**
12 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)
19 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)

26 March

Session 10
Modernist London: SET TEXT: Virginia Woolf, Mrs Dalloway (1925); ‘Modernist Space and the Transformation of Underground London’ in Imagined Londons (handout provided)

2 April

Session 11
Immigrant London: SET TEXT: Sam Selvon, The Lonely Londoners (1956)

9 April

Session 12

30 April

Session 13
Film London and Psychogeography: SET TEXT: showing of Patrick Keiller’s London (1994)

7 May

Session 14

14 May
Handing in of Final Assignments. ESSAY 2 DUE

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

21 May

Classroom Etiquette
Laptops may be used for classwork only

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

Your Instructor
Dr Leya Landau’s main research interests lie in the 18th century and the city in literature. She has taught for many years in the University of London. She is currently writing a book on women and 18th-century London and her publications include work on Frances Burney, women and 18th-century literature, and opera literature.
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.

### 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, 10:30 – 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.

### Attendance Policy

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you 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 for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL’s staff.

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.

**Absence reporting for an absence due to illness**

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.
4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

Absence requests for non-illness reasons

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence 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 an 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.).

NYUL 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 full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

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**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 in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.