

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Seeing London's Architecture

ARTH-UA 9674 L01

NYU London: Fall 2022

Instructor Information

Emily Gee

Office hours by appointment on Thursday afternoons

Instruction Mode

In person.

Course Details

In person meetings on Thursdays from 13:00 – 15:45.

The first class will meet at 6 Bedford Square (room 105), and a few future classes will meet here for lectures; however, most future classes will be in different London locations, as noted below.

Prerequisites

Basic drawing and map reading skills.

Course Description

This course is designed to work in three ways. First, it is an opportunity to learn about London's architecture and history by 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, this course teaches students how to 'read' a building, as well as a town or city. The ability to visually make sense of the built environment of this capital city should help with skills in understanding and place in the world.

Our course is formed of a series of site visits (mostly external, bearing in mind the current situation) through London's extraordinary and diverse environment, considering significant architectural developments from different periods, while learning to record and describe what

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

we see. We will study the architectural vocabulary of London and learn how to accurately and elegantly depict buildings and places in both essays and drawings.

Course Objectives

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Appreciate and understand the architectural history and conservation history of London;
- Keep a travel sketchbook and notebook and write a focused essay on the story of one building;
- Record and understand a place's history and buildings as well as its changing values over time.

Assessment Components

Assignments / Activities	Description of Assignment	% of Final Grade	Due
Mid-term Quiz	Written quiz on the required reading assignments and the buildings covered in our weekly visits.	20%	Session 7
Sketchbook	Students are expected to keep a sketchbook containing assigned sketches of places and buildings visited during the course. The Instructor will discuss and provide informal assessment and feedback on your sketchbooks during the course. 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, and there should also be informal sketches as	40%	Session 14

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Assignments / Activities	Description of Assignment	% of Final Grade	Due
	<p>we travel. Grading will consider how you have developed the following aspects of recording, including visual representations in the form of sketches (elevations, perspectives and general views, plans and maps and details as assigned, plus additional drawings) and written annotations of relevant physical and historical facts that are discussed during the visits to different sites. 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.</p>		
Final Essay	<p>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 the subject should be agreed with your Instructor and a thoughtful proposal prepared.</p>		<p>Proposal due Session 7; Final Essay due Session 13</p>

Assessment Expectations

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Letter Grade	Grade Percentage	Description
A-range	A = 93-100% A- = 90-92%	Excellent – a deep level of comprehension of London’s history and architecture expressed in a well written essay, strong participation in class and thorough engagement with the content, sketching and note-taking throughout the term.
B-range	B+ = 87-89% B = 84-86% B- = 80-83%	Good – a good understanding of London’s history and architecture, good level of participation and a well-presented sketchbook with good notes.
C-range	C+ = 77-79% C = 74-76% C- = 70-73%	Average
D-range	D+ = 67-69% D = 65-66%	Below Average
F	F = below 65%	Unfinished, low effort, no evidence of applying what we have learned or responding to feedback.

Course Materials

Required Texts & Materials

- Whitfield, Peter. (2006) **London: A Life in Maps**. The British Library Publishing Division. ISBN: 9780712349192
- Summerson, John. (2003 edition) **Georgian London**. Yale University Press. ISBN: 9780300089882
- Bradley, Simon. (2011 edition) **St. Pancras Station**. Profile Books Ltd. ISBN: 9781846684609
- The recommended **sketchbook** is A4 of good weight and quality (but not the very thick sketchbooks) and with a hard cover and ideally spiral bound to facilitate sketching on your lap. 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, so you must not lose it.
- Sketching **pencils** in densities of 2B, 4B, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, and perhaps some fine point drawing pens. Materials are available from a classic artist’s material shop just around the corner from NYU-L: L. Cornelissen and Son, 105 Great Russell Street, WC1B 3RY.
- Our site visits will all be within walking distance of campus. As we are often working outside in all weathers, students should carry a water bottle or a thermos flask with hot drinks. Students should wear **appropriate clothing and shoes** as we will often be studying outside and it will often feel colder when you are sketching, standing or

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

sitting in an outdoor location for a few hours. Warm jackets and comfortable warm shoes, a waterproof shell, hats and fingerless gloves are necessary for outdoor sketching on colder days.

Optional Text(s) & Materials

Extensive bibliography for suggested further reading is available on Brightspace.

There are also opportunities to participate in other online or in-person talks and tours and your Instructor will periodically suggest additional ways to learn more about London's history, art and architecture, which students are encouraged to pursue.

Resources

- Access your course materials: [Brightspace](#)
- NYU London and Living in London Info: [LDN](#)
- Databases, journal articles, and more: [Bobst Library](#)
- Assistance with strengthening your writing: [NYU Writing Center](#) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- Obtain 24/7 technology assistance: [IT Help Desk](#)

Course Schedule

Topics & Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 1 September	Introduction to course and the architectural history of London lecture (Introduction via Zoom)	Illustrations from the English Heritage <i>The Resurvey Glossary</i> Watson – <i>Artist's Sketchbook</i> selected pages	Catch up on reading for first class.
Session 2 8 September	Royal London: Jewel Tower & Whitehall	Whitfield – <i>London: A Life in Maps</i> pp. 20-23 Summerson – <i>Architecture in Britain 1530-1830</i> Chapter 8 The Surveyorship of Inigo Jones pp. 119-139.	NB Class tomorrow Friday Sept. 9, in lieu of next week.
Session 3	Around Bloomsbury 1:	Cherry and Pevsner –	NB No class next week

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
9 September NB This is a Friday make up class!	Bedford Square, British Museum, and University of London. Meet at 6 Bedford Square, room 105 for lecture then site visits	<i>The Buildings of England London 4: North</i> pp. 322-5 and pp. 248-54 List description for the buildings of Bedford Square Summerson – <i>Georgian London</i> Ch. 1 Air View pp. 1-9; Ch. 5 The London House and its Builders pp. 49-68; Ch. 12 Great Estates 1 pp. 179-195.	(Sept. 15)
Session 4 22 September	St Pancras Old Church	Bowdler, Roger (with Christopher Woodward): “An Ornamental Structure and Very Likely to be Damaged...”: Sir John Soane’s Tomb in St Pancras Gardens, London’, 42 pp.246-62.	
Session 5 29 September	Around Bloomsbury 2: British Museum and Brunswick Centre	Summerson <i>Georgian London</i> Ch. 15 Public Works after Waterloo pp. 225-43 and Ch. 19 The Trail of Commerce pp.302-16 <i>The Buildings of England London 4</i> pp.288-96; 328-9.	
Session 6 6 October	London’s Stations: Kings Cross and St. Pancras	Bradley, Simon. (2011 edition) <i>St. Pancras Station</i> . Profile Books Ltd.	
Session 7 13 October	Living in London lecture and discussion (6 Bedford Square, Room 105)	Thom, Colin – ‘Introduction – Neither a great mansion nor a hovel’: a short history of London’s housing’ in <i>Researching London’s</i>	Mid term quiz (20% of grade) and Essay proposal due

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		<i>Houses</i> , pp. 7-46 Gee, Emily – ‘Where Shall She Live?’ Housing the New Working Woman in Late Victorian and Edwardian London’ in <i>Living, Leisure and Law: Eight Building Types in England 1800-1914</i> pp.89-109.	
Session 8 21 October <i>NB This is a Friday make up class!</i>	City of London	Whitfield – <i>London: A Life in Maps</i> pp. 56-71 Bradley and Pevsner – <i>The Buildings of England London 1: The City of London</i> pp. 281-6 and 339-40 Summerson – <i>Architecture in Britain 1530-1830</i> Ch. 14 St. Paul’s Cathedral pp.221-38.	
Session 9 27 October	Soane’s London: Sir John Soane’s Museum	[T] Summerson – <i>Georgian London</i> Ch. 11 Building during the French Wars 1793-1815 pp. 165-77 [R] Bradley and Pevsner – <i>The Buildings of England London 4: North</i> pp.296-99.	
Session 10 3 November	Current issues in heritage lecture and discussion (6 Bedford Square, Room 105)	https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/statements/contested-heritage/ and further essays will be shared.	
Session 11	Zoological Society of London	Guillery, Peter. (1994). <i>The Buildings of</i>	[Insert assignment]

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
10 November		<i>London Zoo</i> . Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. Chapter 1: "Historical Development" pp.1-24.	
Session 12 17 November	John Nash's Regent's Park to All Souls Church	Whitfield – <i>London: A Life in Maps</i> The Victorian Metropolis pp. 106-121 Summerson – <i>Georgian London</i> Ch. 13 The Plans and Elevations of John Nash pp.196-216.	NB no class next week for Thanksgiving holiday.
Session 13 1 December	American Heritage in London: walking tour and Benjamin Franklin House	Whitfield – <i>London: A Life in Maps</i> pp. 74-79 Summerson – <i>Georgian London</i> Ch. 6 'Fifty New Churches' and Some Others pp.69-86 Pierson, Jr., William H. <i>American Buildings and their Architects</i> pp.131-142.	Essay on London building due (40% of grade) – hand in original copy with Turnitin receipt to Instructor.
Session 14 8 December	Current issues in heritage lecture and discussion (6 Bedford Square, Room 105)	https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/statements/contested-heritage/ and further shared essays.	Final Sketch book review (40% of grade) – hand in completed sketchbooks to Instructor.
	No Final Exam		

Course Policies

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Classroom Etiquette

While we will mostly meet on site in this class, we do have some scheduled sessions in the classroom. In those cases, please consider the following protocols:

- Please do not eat during class and minimize any other distracting noises (e.g. rustling of papers and leaving the classroom before the break, unless absolutely necessary).
- Cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode during class time.
- Students should take lecture notes in their sketchbooks and not on laptops. Exceptions will be made for students with academic accommodations from the Moses Center.
- Students should be respectful and courteous at all times to all participants in class.

When we are out and about in London for our sessions, please note the following:

- It is very important that all students arrive in time to start punctually as often we will start walking from our meeting point. If delayed for unavoidable reasons, students should telephone the Instructor on the number provided above to let her know and to get directions on where to catch up the group.
- Active participation is essential and students should listen and engage when the Instructor is introducing a building on the route or on site, indicating to the Instructor if they cannot hear.
- Students should maintain good social distance from each other and the Instructor and others when we walk through London and stop to discuss and draw London buildings.
- Students should carry hand sanitiser and a mask to wear when appropriate on our visits in London.
- Many of our classes are spent outside, often on busy, noisy streets. It is important that we maintain good social distance yet also listen carefully to one another when discussing buildings on the pavement. The Instructor will find a suitable place to stop but it is also the students' responsibility to be aware of good social distance as well as safety from traffic when we are stopped on pavements. Students should always take personal responsibility for their own safe passage across roads, rather than automatically crossing with others.
- Notes should always be taken in sketchbooks and not on telephones.
- Hot drinks and cold water that you have brought with you are allowed during class when sketching outside.

Final exams

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the London Academics team (nyul.academics@nyu.edu). Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

Academic Honesty, Plagiarism and Late Work

Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the [University and school policies](#). You can find details on these topics and more on this section of our NYUL website (<https://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/academic-policies.html>) and on the Policies and Procedures section of the NYU website for students studying away at

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

global sites (<https://www.nyu.edu/academics/studying-abroad/upperclassmen-semester-academic-year-study-away/academic-resources/policies-and-procedures.html>).

Attendance

Key information on NYU London's absence policy, how to report absences, and what kinds of absences can be excused can be found on our [website](http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/attendance-policy.html) (<http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/attendance-policy.html>)

To ensure the integrity of the academic experience, class attendance is required and expected promptly when class begins. These rules apply to class excursions and activities as well.

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations, but must follow NYU London's absence reporting procedure. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#)

Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Inclusivity Policies and Priorities

NYU's Office of Global Programs and NYU's global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert)

You can edit your pronoun and name pronunciation information on your Albert account, making it visible for faculty and staff. Information on how to do this can be found on the [Pronouns and Name Pronunciation web page](#).

Bias Response

The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community. For more information, including how to report an incident, visit the [Bias Response Line website](#).

Your Lecturer

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Your Instructor has taught at NYU in London since Spring 2011. In her primary role, Emily has worked at Historic England (formerly English Heritage) since 2001 and is currently Regional Director, London and South East. Emily studied in the US (Smith College, BA; University of Virginia, MA Architectural History), was teaching assistant for architectural history courses at UVA, and has a Diploma in Building Conservation from the Architectural Association in London. She has published articles, and is writing a book for Liverpool University Press on the history of purpose-built housing for working women in Victorian and Edwardian England.