

HIST 232: Historical Development of London

University of Maryland - Fall 2007

Instructor – Richard Tames

Class meeting: Thursdays 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

General

This course is a survey of the history of London from its Roman origins to the present. Class sessions will include lectures and videos. Guided walks will enable students to utilise both major museums and to appreciate surviving aspects of the city's built heritage such as sections of the Roman walls, Wren churches, Georgian architecture and its still functioning Victorian infrastructure.

Course Objectives

1. To gain a general familiarity with the history of London, in terms of its physical development, social structures, significant personalities, ethnic diversity and its role in national and international history
2. To learn to 'read the streets' - to interpret their meanings, past and present
3. To improve your understanding of how historians work and the sources on which they can draw
4. To investigate historical change in a defined area using maps and street directories
5. To research an aspect of the history of London that interests you
6. To learn to use and enjoy the city with confidence

Guided Walks

Walks enable us to gain a better understanding of the scale and structure of the city and its component parts, to appreciate the significance of their precise location, their construction and functioning and the distances between them.

We will walk whatever the weather so be adequately dressed. A folding umbrella and rainproof jacket and footwear are advisable.

ALWAYS bring pen and a notebook or paper and clipboard to take notes. I expect everyone to take their own notes. Please keep electronic distractions stowed away for the duration of the class. The point of departure will always be an Underground station. Aim to arrive by 1.45 p.m. so that we can begin on time.

Required Reading

Roy Porter – *London: A Social History* (Penguin edition 2000)

You will be given a Reading Guide which highlights the major topics and questions in each chapter and draws attention to key concepts, unfamiliar expressions and memorable events and personalities.

You will be expected to study the maps and illustrations as carefully as the text.

It is particularly important that you read the Preface and Introduction before embarking on the main body of the text in order to understand the author's own perspective. Although the book has become widely accepted, both as a text suitable for students and as a survey for the general reader or visitor to London, the author has discernibly strong views, especially in respect of the development of London in the post-war period.

The purpose of *London: A Social History* is to provide a context and counterpoint to the lectures and the handouts which will be given for each class or walk.

A list of approved websites relating to the history of London will be distributed. Students will be expected to familiarise themselves with the online versions of John Rocque's 1746 map of London and the Charles Booth poverty map of London.

Assessments

The final grade will be based on five different assessments, weighted as noted below.

- A. Essay (1,000 words) 10%
- B. Research Paper (3,000 words maximum) 30%
- C. Mid-Term (1 hour) 20%
- D. Final (2 hours) 30%
- E. Class Contribution 10%

A and B. Written Assignments (Essay and Research Paper)

I look for clear, concise and accurate prose rather than length. Your first draft may be considerably longer than what you actually submit. Re-draft with a view to compressing, rather than eliminating. Make every sentence count. You should always re-read your work before submitting your final draft. Try re-reading aloud for sense. American spellings (labor, defense, theater) are entirely acceptable except in the case of proper nouns (e.g. the British Labour Party, Ministry of Defence, Royal National Theatre).

A. Essay

The theme of this assignment is 'People and Place'. Students will give an account of London as it would have been experienced by a specific historical personage. This would include where they lived and worked, the people they knew, their interests and recreations, the impact (if any) that they made on the city and how they have been memorialised, if at all. It would be helpful to bear in mind what now survives of the London that they would have known.

Because one is liable to be overwhelmed with information it is advisable not to focus on a major and well-documented figure like Dickens or Shakespeare, unless you have a very specific perspective to offer (e.g. Dickens' childhood and how it shaped his view of London subsequently or Shakespeare considered as a professional actor or businessman, rather than as a dramatist). It would be better to choose and investigate a 'second rank' figure like Dickens' friend Wilkie Collins, a pioneer of the detective story, or Shakespeare's contemporary rivals in the theatre business, Philip Henslowe or Henslowe's son-in-law Edward Alleyn. Credit will be given to choosing a challenging topic – but students *must* secure approval to ensure that the assignment is feasible in terms of time and library resources.

The essay *may* be presented as annotations for a guided walk where this would be appropriate for the selected topic.

B. Research Paper

This assignment enables the student to investigate a topic of personal interest which may, if desired, be related to their major. Recent examples of papers submitted have included:

- A History of the Whitefield Memorial Church (The American Church in London)
- London in the novels of Virginia Woolf
- London's Lost Rivers
- Anti-police riots in Thatcher's London
- 'Swinging London' : Myth and Reality
- London on film (a comparison of the work of Chaplin, Hitchcock, Kubrick and Allen)

The *final* draft is to be submitted at the same time as the final examination – BUT:

- a) the topic is to be chosen and approved by the time of the mid-term examination
- b) a full draft text is to be submitted two weeks before the final. This will be returned a week later to enable the student to make any required amendments or corrections.

In researching their topic students are strongly recommended to use the search engines bbc and Vivisimo as well as Google:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

<http://search.vivisimo.com/>

bbc presents findings in a British, rather than American, order of priorities. For example, if I try to use Google to find out about Brentwood in Essex, I get priority references to Brentwood, Tennessee, which is its twin town, or Brentwood in California, or other Brentwoods around the world. Vivisimo groups references into a dozen different clusterings, often revealing unsuspected aspects of a topic.

The research paper is an opportunity to display originality in the selection and treatment of a topic of historical investigation.

Due credit will be given for the use of original source material, personal visits and/or face-to-face interviews.

The paper should be accompanied by a brief methodological appendix summarising the sequence of your research efforts, places visited and list of sources and persons consulted.

Although students do not have personal access to the campus resources with which they are familiar, they do have the resources of the largest city in Europe, including the following, which are open to any user:

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

32-38 Theobald's Road, London WC1 (2nd floor, rear)

Nearest Tube station Chancery Lane (Central Line), including free internet access (e.g. to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography)

(www.camden.gov.uk/localstudies)

Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury, London EC2

Nearest Tube stations Bank (Central Line) or Barbican (Circle or Metropolitan or Hammersmith and City Lines)

The world's most comprehensive collection relating to the history of London with open access shelves.

(www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

Bishopsgate Institute and Foundation

230 Bishopsgate, London EC2

Nearest Tube station Liverpool Street (Central and Circle Lines)

Large collection on the history of London, including back numbers of academic journals, with a good general reference collection

(www.bishopsgate.org.uk)

City of Westminster Archives Centre

10 St. Ann's Street, London SW1

Nearest Tube stations St. James's Park (Circle and District Lines) and Westminster (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines)

C. Mid-Term Examination

The mid-term will consist of short answer identifications relating to personalities, objects, locations and institutions presented or encountered in the class sessions. Questions may be based on a map or illustration selected from R. Porter *London: A Social History*.

D. Final Examination

The final examination will include short answer identifications plus two essays selected from a list which will be made available two weeks before the final examination.

E. Class contribution

This grade will be based on the quality of your participation in terms of attendance, punctuality and frequency and quality of questions, observations and responses to questions and quizzes.

Quizzes – expect short quizzes at any classroom session. Although the results as such will not be included in your final grade they will be taken as an indicator of your participation. Quizzes enable a student to demonstrate basic knowledge of key personalities, locations, institutions and events and to display accuracy of recall. Both the mid-term and the final will draw on material covered in the quizzes.

Academic Integrity

Students are bound by the University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity. Failure to adhere to the Code will be dealt with in accordance with university policies and procedures.

(<http://www.shc.umd.edu>)

Weekly Meetings

1. 20th September: Starting From Here

Lecture: Introduction to Roy Porter's *London: A Social History*.

Walk: Exploring Bloomsbury: an introductory walk around the immediate area to investigate the Bedford Estate and to achieve orientation and familiarization with basic points for observation (buildings, plaques, statues, street names). We will end at the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre.

Reading: Porter, Preface, Introduction, Ch. 2 pages 18-24

2. 27th September: Londinium to London

Walk: Meet at Mansion House Tube station ticket hall (Circle and District Lines)
An exploration on foot of surviving features of Roman and medieval London to see Huggin Hill baths, Mithras temple, London Stone, Fish Street Hill, site of the amphitheatre, site of Roman fort and wall, ending in the Museum of London Roman galleries.

Reading: Porter, Ch. 2 pages 24-44

3. 4th October: Fragments of the Middle Ages

Lecture: Medieval London

Walk: Taking in the Clerk's Well, St. John's Gateway, Charterhouse, the William Wallace monument and the church of St. Bartholomew the Great.

Reading: Porter, Ch. 3

4. 11th October: City of Riches

Deadline for first essay

Walk: Meet in the ticket hall at South Kensington Underground station (Circle, District and Piccadilly lines)

Guided visit to the British galleries at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Reading: Porter, Chs. 4 and 6

5. 18th October: The London of Pepys and Wren

Walk: Meet at Tower Hill Underground Station (upper exit, not ticket hall) (Circle and District Lines)

A walk to recall the most dramatic episodes in the pre-modern history of London - plague, fire and reconstruction - as experienced by England's greatest diarist and greatest architect..

Reading: Porter, Chs. 5 and 7

6. 25th October: Georgian London

Lecture: Video on William Hogarth

Walk: Guided walk via St.Giles-in-the-Fields to the National Gallery.

Reading: Porter, Chs. 8 and 9

7. 1st November: Mid-Term Examination
Deadline for approval of the topic of your research paper

Examination followed by video on Dennis Severs' House.

Reading: Porter, Chs.10 and 11

8. 8th November: Victorian Vista

Lecture: Victorian London

Walk: Walk to identify typical Victorian public institutions ending at the British Library.

Reading: Porter, Ch. 12

9. 15th November: Another London : Poverty, Immigration and Radicalism

Walk: Meet at Stepney Green Underground station (District and Hammersmith and City Lines)

We will walk eastward along the north side of the main road to pass via Trinity Almshouses, Whitechapel, Aldgate, Toynbee Hall, Brick Lane, Fournier Street, Christ Church and Dennis Severs house to end at Spitalfields Market.

Reading: Porter, Chs. 13 and 14

10. 22nd November: London at War

Lecture: Video on the London Blitz and lecture in Birkbeck. Consultation on individual projects.

Reading: Porter, Chs. 15 and 16

11. 29th November: Classroom Review and Revision
Deadline for draft of research paper

12. 6th December: Renewal Docklands and 2012

Walk: Meet at Tower Hill Tube (District and Circle Lines)

A visit to Canary Wharf and on to the Lea Valley, site of the 2012 Olympics
You will need your Oyster Card to cover Zones 1 & 2

13. 13th December: Final Examination
Deadline for research paper