

## **LONDON AND ITS LITERATURE      Summer 2012**

**Course Code SS1806**

### **Aims**

- i. To provide the opportunity for students to develop an understanding and appreciation of key aspects of the contribution of London to English literary life;
- ii. To consider selected texts within the specific historical, political and cultural context of London and its impact on the imaginations of writers, in particular over the past three hundred years;
- iii. To briefly explore the accounts of London by 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>-century writers such as Johnson, Blake & Dickens, and begin to make comparisons with more recent accounts;
- iv. To introduce students to key cultural and historical sites in London in relation to its literature and to encourage students to view such places in an informed and critical way.

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course students should be able to demonstrate:

- i. An understanding of some of the conditions of literary production in London from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present;
- ii. An awareness of the changing accounts of London since Swift, and of the relationships between them;
- iii. A knowledge of a range of relevant texts;
- iv. An ability to write critically and persuasively about the issues raised in the module, and to undertake independent research.

### **Teaching and learning strategies**

The course is delivered through a multidisciplinary programme consisting of:

- i. Formal lecture/workshop and seminar/small group sessions
- ii. Field activities led by members of the Kingston Faculty or contracted professionals
- iii. Independent library sessions

### **Classes**

- i. Classes will start promptly at the times shown in the schedule.
- ii. There will be a preliminary meeting on **Friday morning, 30<sup>th</sup> June**, to make sure all is in order before classes start on the Monday.
- iii. For all the fieldtrips to London you will travel on public transport using your travel cards.
- iv. On days where there are lectures, you will have a half-hour break from 11.00-11.30am and, if applicable, between 3-3.30pm.

**N.B. The University reserves the right to vary or revise the content at its discretion.**

**Class Schedule  
London & Its Literature**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>
<b>Friday 30 June</b>	1000- 1200	JG	Preliminary meeting	Nick Foxtton
<b>Monday 2nd July</b>	0930	JG	Introduction to London and its Literature	NF
	1400	JG	<b>Video screening:</b> <i>The Beggar's Opera</i>	NF
<b>Weds 4th July</b>	0930	JG	London Underworlds 1: <i>The Beggar's Opera</i>	NF
	1430	Waterloo Station	<b>SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM</b>	NF
<b>Weds 11th July</b>	0930	JG	Walking the Streets of Eighteenth-Century London: comparing the poems of Swift, Johnson and Blake	NF
	1430	Waterloo Station	<b>SAMUEL JOHNSON'S HOUSE</b>	NF
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	0930	JG	Modern London : Dickens : Oliver Twist	NF
	1430	Waterloo Station	<b>Dickens Walk</b>	NF
<b>Monday 16th July</b>	0930	JG	Modern London : Dickens: Oliver Twist	NF
	1430	JG	<b>Video Screening:</b> Oliver Twist	
<b>Weds 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	0930	JG	London Underworlds 2: <i>Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>	NF
	1430	Waterloo Station	<b>SHERLOCK HOLMES MUSEUM</b>	
<b>Weds 25th July</b>	0930	JG	Modernist London 1 : <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	NF
	pm		Individual Essay Sessions	NF
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July</b>	0930	JG	Modernist London 2: <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	NF
	1400	JG	Course Review	NF

**Fieldtrips**

*Sir John Soane's Museum:* A visit to the late 18<sup>th</sup> -early 19<sup>th</sup> century architect, Sir John Soane's, house, museum and library at No.13 Lincoln's Inn Fields. Professor of

Architecture at the Royal Academy in 1806, Soane's house, and his collection of books, painting and sculpture, give students visual access to life in London at this time. ([www.soane.org](http://www.soane.org))

*Samuel Johnson's House*: A visit to the home of Samuel Johnson, at Number 17 Gough Square, will give students an idea how his Dictionary of the English Language (1755) took shape. ([www.drjohnsonshouse.org/history.htm](http://www.drjohnsonshouse.org/history.htm))

*Sherlock Holmes Museum*: A visit to the home of the most detective, a museum 'dedicated to the life and times of Sherlock Holmes' whose 'interior has been faithfully maintained for posterity exactly as described in the published stories'. ([www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk))

*Westminster/Whitehall Walk*: This walk follows Mrs Dalloway's path as she leaves home in the morning (side streets behind Westminster Abbey) and traces other walks and locations mentioned in the novel. A possible visit to the Wallace Collection (nearby), famous for its 18<sup>th</sup>-century and earlier paintings. ([www.wallacecollection.org/thecollection](http://www.wallacecollection.org/thecollection))

## **Assessment**

### Paper 1 (30%) max 1000 words

Students will be asked to write a short critical analysis of an extract from a text studied in the course. It will be submitted on **Wednesday 18 July at 9.30am (Hand in to MD)**

### Paper 2 (70%) max 2000 words

Students will be asked to write an essay in response to one of the questions on the topics covered during the module (Essay question to be provided by MD) It will be submitted on **Friday 27 July by 5pm (Hand in to MD)**

**NB You may not write on any topic which you are writing on for another course you are taking in Summer School.**

## **Attendance**

There is a standard penalty for non-attendance i.e. 'Students will be penalized for any non-excused absences to a maximum of 20%'.

## Primary texts:

**Note: with the exception of the eighteenth-century poems (2<sup>nd</sup> item below), which will be provided as handouts, you'll need to purchase these and read them in advance of the course starting**

- John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera* (1728) (Penguin Classics Edition recommended)
- A selection of eighteenth-century poetry, including Swift's 'A Description of a City Shower' (1710), extracts from Johnson's 'London' (1738), Blake's 'London' (1798)
- Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1892) (Penguin Popular Classics edition recommended: Please read at least 'A Scandal in Bohemia' and 'The Man with the Twisted Lip')
- Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925) (Oxford Classics Edition recommended)
- Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners* (1956) (Penguin Modern Classics)
- Colin Macinnes, *City of Spades* (1957)(Allison & Busby) Also available in anthology *The London Novels*.
- Hanif Kureishi, *London Kills Me* (1992). Extracts provided as this is hard to find except in the Collected Screenplays v1.

## Secondary texts (additional texts will be referred to during the course):

George G. Williams, *A Guide to Literary London*, London: Batsford, 1973.

Dorothy Marshall, *Dr Johnson's London*, London and New York: John Wiley, 1968.

Norma Clarke, *Dr Johnson's Women*, London and New York: Hambledon and London, 2000.

Michael Harrison, *The London of Sherlock Holmes*, Newton Abbot: David and Charles, 1972.

Gail Cunningham and Stephen Barber, *London Eyes: Reflections in text and image*, Oxford: Berghahn, 2007)

Karl Beckson, *London in the 1890's: A Cultural History*, New York and London: W.W. Norton, 1993.

Dorothy Brewster, *Virginia Woolf's London*, London: Allen and Unwin, 1959.

Stephen Inwood, *A History of London*. London: Macmillan, 1998.

James Procter, *Dwelling places: Postwar black British writing*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2003