

University of Roehampton – January in London, England

Department: Humanities

Module Title: London: History, Society, and Culture

Module Code: TBC

Credit rating: UK 20 credits. 40 hours face to face in class lecture / tutorial hours

Rationale

This module provides an opportunity for students to develop a deeper understanding of the history of London and of some of its most celebrated monuments, heritage and historical sites. It offers a pathway for students to study London's history in greater depth and it internationalizes the learning experience. The module puts students in touch with various types of historical artefacts, namely London's architecture, sculpture, painting and archaeological objects. It explores the past through various types of historical sources and approaches to studying. Students will develop a meaningful awareness of the particular character and challenges of London history through these visual and material sources as well as texts, both factual and fictional. The syllabus will include visits to London's museums and heritage sites such as Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and less well-known sites, off the 'tourist trail'.

Teaching and learning methods

The module is taught through a series of lectures, which introduce students to the main themes examined on the course. These lectures are outlined in the syllabus section of this handbook. Lectures will be delivered in the classroom or on field trips at various museums or heritage sites. Classroom-based lectures are combined with seminars that deepen students' understanding of a given topic through analysis of contemporary written and visual sources. Lectures given on field trips are accompanied by in-depth guided tours of specially selected museums and heritage sites designed to bring to life the main topics of the lecture.

The learning conducted in London is combined with a distance learning week that extends the student experience and discussion-based learning. The week-long online e-tivities are designed to draw on the student's experiences to complete the assessment, make connections between the sites of London with relevant resources in the Roehampton Library, and to build a historical argument. Throughout the online portion of the course, students will, necessarily, engage with the students they met on-site, and continued the conversations that started in the classroom.

Learning Outcomes

- A broad knowledge and understanding of London's history from ancient Roman beginnings to its contemporary place as Britain's capital city
- Competency in reading and understanding various types source material and the methods associated with historical interpretation
- An awareness of distinctive types of history and cognate disciplines to the study of London such as literature, cultural studies, and archaeology
- An ability to communicate effectively and disseminate one's critical interpretation of the past in written form
- An ability to use digital technology to engage with the past, share views, and work with historical sources

Topics to include:

- Roman London
- Medieval London
- Early Modern London
- Commercial London
- Eighteenth Century London
- Victorian London
- Modern London
- Imperial and Commercial London
- London at War

Site visits to include:

- Museum of London
- The Tower of London
- St Paul's Cathedral
- V&A Museum
- Natural History Museum
- Docklands Museum

Assessment

The assessment for this module consists of a 3,000-word essay on a given topic.

You will be expected to meet with one of the module tutors during the J-term for a personal tutorial session in which you can to discuss your essay choice and the necessary readings.

General Bibliography

Core reading

Porter, R. (1996) *London: A Social History*, London: Penguin.

This is widely available, and we strongly recommend you buy yourself a copy, to read as you proceed through the module. There are several copies of various editions of the text in the library too.

Other General Histories & Reference

Ackroyd, P. (2000), *London: the Biography*, London: Chatto & Windus

Inwood, S. (2000) *A History of London*, London: Macmillan

Sheppard, F.H.W. (2000) *London: A History*, Oxford: OUP

Sutcliffe, A. (2006) *London: an Architectural History*, New Haven: Yale UP

Weinreb, B. & Hibbert, C. (1983) *The London Encyclopaedia*, London: Macmillan

Whitfield, P. (2006) *London: a Life in Maps*, London: British Library Publications

The Times London History Atlas (1997) London: Times Publications