



BRITISH LIFE & CULTURE

IES Abroad London Syllabus

DESCRIPTION: *This course will engage students in studying key dimensions of present day British political, social and cultural life. It will enable students to develop a critical appreciation of the historical development of the United Kingdom, social institutions and constituent communities, generally drawing on the dynamic relationship sustained by an imperial past, European influence and the Anglo-American "special relationship".*

By directly focusing on all that London has to offer, students will be encouraged to explore and analyse ways in which both British identity and Britishness are presently imagined, identified, represented and experienced in a global capital city. Via lectures, seminar discussion, film and associated field study visits, students will be introduced to contrasting environments and acquainted with traditional values, changing cultural beliefs and values that simultaneously promote social cohesion and stir controversy.

Combining classwork with assigned reading and independent study, students will be expected to develop and demonstrate their understanding and dynamic interpretation of British urban life and culture. They will have ample opportunity to communicate their findings and test their conclusions via field study visits, class discussion and debate; oral presentations and written assignments.

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Lectures (multi-media); seminar discussion and activities; directed exploration; wide range of visual material; field study visits and student presentations. The course meets once a week.

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

i). Active class participation (15%)

ii.) Pair Presentations (20%); Students will be asked to research and prepare a 15 min talk from a list of topics involving Brit Life and culture – politics, royalty, popular culture, media. See 'Presentations Topic' and 'Schedule of Presenters'.

iii.) Field Study Paper: 1,500-2,000 words (25%); in groups of **four** students will plan a study walk around a London neighbourhood.

iv.) Research Paper: 2,000 words (40%); in **pairs** students will write a paper on a particular aspect of British Life and Culture. Research questions will be handed out – though students can write their own research question with tutor's agreement.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES & FIELD STUDY VISITS

(Black=in Class: Blue=Study Visit)

Lesson 1

Course Introduction: British Identity in the 21st Century.

Lesson 2

Field Study Visit 1. The City of London: tour from Roman capital to financial citadel; then visit the Museum of London.

Lesson 3

Regeneration: Social Inclusion & Exclusion- Winners and Losers in Global London

Lesson 4

Field Study Visit 2.: Visit to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (the 2012 Olympic Games site and home of West Ham United).

Lesson 5

British Politics: Governance, Parliament...and Monarchy. **Presentations** 1

Lesson 6

Field Study Visit 3. Political authority and institutions: Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Westminster.

-EXAMS AND MIDTERM BREAK

Lesson 7

British Multiculturalism: Communities, faith, ethnicity and language.

DEADLINE - Submit Field Study Paper. Presentations 2

Lesson 8

Field Study Visit 4. London's East End tour.

Lesson 9

British Pop Culture: Music, Fashion, Sport, TV and British Identity.

Presentations 3

Lesson 10

Field Study Visit 5. Soho Tour.

Lesson 11

Field Study Visit 6. to the Imperial War Museum: Warrior Nation; imperialism and post-imperial national identity.

DEADLINE - Submit Research Paper.

Lesson 12

A Special Relationship? Britain, Europe and the USA. Presentations 4

READING

Assigned class reading: Check Moodle for any texts that must be read before attending class.

Recommended Reading:

John Clement Ball, *Imagining London: Postcolonial Fiction and the Transnational Metropolis* (Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 2006).

John Benson, *Affluence and Authority: A Social History of Twentieth-Century Britain* (London: Hodder Arnold, 2005).

Ian Bradley, *Believing in Britain: The spiritual identity of Britishness* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2007).

Christopher Breward, *Fashioning London: Clothing and the Modern*

Metropolis (Oxford: Berg, 2004).

Gordon Brown & Matthew d'Ancona (eds.), *Being British: the search for the values that bind the Nation* (Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing, 2009).

David Cannadine, *In Churchill's Shadow: Confronting the Past in Modern Britain* (London: Penguin, 2002).

D. Cannadine, *Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire* (London: Allen Lane, 2001).

Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707 –1837* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992).

Robert Collis & Philip Dodd, *Englishness, Politics and Culture 1880-1920* (London, Bloomsbury, 2014 edn.).

Aeron Davis, *Promotional Cultures* (London, Polity, 2013).

Paul Gilroy, *There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack: The Cultural Politics of Race and Nation* (London: Routledge, 2002).

Catherine Hall, *Civilising Subjects: Metropole and Colony in the English Imagination, 1830-1867* (Cambridge, Polity Press, 2002).

James Hampshire, *Citizenship and Belonging Immigration and the Politics of Demographic Governance in Postwar Britain* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

Christopher Harvie & Colin Matthew, *Nineteenth-century Britain: a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: OUP, 2000).

Dick Hebdige, *Subculture: The Meaning of Style* (London: Routledge, 1995). Peter Hitchens, *The Abolition of Britain: from Winston Churchill to Princess Diana* (London: Continuum, 2008)

E. J. Hobsbawm, *Industry and Empire. From 1750 to the Present Day* (Rev. ed., Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1999).

Matt Houlbrook, *Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918 – 1957* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006).

Owen Jones, *The Establishment and how they get away with it* (London,

Penguin, 2015).

Susan Kingsley Kent, *Gender and Power in Britain, 1640-1990* (London, Routledge, 1998).

Tony Kushner, *The Battle of Britishness: Migrant journeys, 1685 to the present* (Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2012).

Kwasi Kwarteng, *Ghosts of Empire: Britain's legacies in the Modern World* (London: Bloomsbury, 2011).

Stewart Lansley & Joanna Mack, *Breadline Britain, the rise of mass poverty* (London, Oneworld, 2015).

W. R. Louis, ed., *The Oxford History of the British Empire, vol. III: The Nineteenth Century*, eds. A. Porter & A. Low (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Andrew Marr, *A History of Modern Britain* (London: Macmillan, 2008).

Irene Morra, *Britishness, Popular Music, and National Identity* (London, Routledge, 2014).

Timothy Peace, *Muslims and Political participation in Britain* (London, Routledge, 2015).

Mike Phillips and Trevor Phillips, *Windrush: The Irresistible Rise of Multi-Racial Britain* (London: HarperCollins, 1999).

Erica Rappaport, *Shopping for Pleasure: Women in the Making of London's West End* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).

Sonya O. Rose, *Which People's War? : National Identity and Citizenship in Wartime Britain, 1939 -1945* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003).

Cathy Ross, *Twenties London: A City in the Jazz Age* (London: Philip Wilson, 2003).

Sheila Rowbotham, *A Century of Women: The History of Women in Britain and the United States* (London: 1999).

Dominic Sandbrook, *Never Had it So Good: A History of Britain from Suez to the Beatles* (London: Abacus, 2006).

Dominic Sandbrook, *White Heat: A History of Britain in the Swinging Sixties* (London: LittleBrown, 2006).

Mike Storry & Peter Childs (eds.), *British Cultural Identities* (London, Palgrave, 1997)

Shanti Sumartojo, *Trafalgar Square and the narration of Britishness, 1900 – 2012*, (Oxford, Peter Lang, 2013)

Nick Tiratsoo, ed., *From Blitz to Blair: A New History of Britain since 1939* (London: Phoenix, 1998).

Martin Upham, *Britain Explained: Understanding British Identity*, (London: John Harper, 2017).

Wendy Webster, *Imagining Home: Gender, 'Race' and National Identity, 1945 - 1964* (London: UCL Press, 1998).

Jerry White, *London in the Twentieth Century-A City & its People* (London: Penguin, 2001).

Robert Winder, *Bloody Foreigners: The Story of Immigration to Britain* (London: Abacus, 2005).

Lindy Woodhead, *Shopping, Seduction & Mr. Selfridge* (London: Profile Books, 2008).

Useful Websites for British History & Contemporary Culture: BBC history - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/>

The Guardian - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

C19th History -<http://www.victorianweb.org/>

Immigration and Race - <http://www.blackpresence.co.uk/>

Political History - <http://bubl.ac.uk/link/b/britishpoliticalhistory.htm>
Imperial War Museum - <http://www.iwm.org.uk/>

Moving Here: Migration history -
<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/galleries/histories/>