

Queen Mary Summer School 2020

SUM503E London in Modern Literature, Fine Art and Film
School of Languages, Linguistics and Film

Course outline

Date: 20 July - 7 August 2020

Level: 5

Credits: 15 (Queen Mary credits)

Course leader: Cary Mackay (cary.mackay@qmul.ac.uk)

Assessment: 3,000 word personal project (75%) and 500 word piece of travel writing (25%)

Course description:

London has been the largest European city for more than two-and-a-half centuries and has played a dominant role in the context of European cities. We are going to explore the ways in which this notion is presented in examples of European literature, fine art and film in the 19th, 20th, and early 21st centuries. The course spans three weeks and offers you a mixture of classroom teaching, film screenings, workshops and excursions. We will also make a number of suggestions for subject-related activities outside your scheduled contact hours.

Learning outcomes:

You will learn about/gain:

- a basic knowledge of London's history
- an in-depth knowledge of selected artefacts related to London
- an insight into urban cultural studies
- an understanding of the process of cultural production and reception.

You will be able to:

- analyse texts of various genres and other cultural media (paintings, sketches, films, photographs)
- analyse historic and contemporary materials and their context
- theorise urban culture; migration and multiculturalism
- engage critically with knowledge
- acquire a differentiated understanding of metropolitan culture
- argue clearly and concisely
- understand and apply different forms of communication in various cultural settings
- produce analyses that are grounded in evidence
- investigate unfamiliar materials
- acquire a substantial body of new knowledge
- practice the art of critical debate.

Approximate cost:

The tuition fees for the **London in Modern Literature, Fine Art and Film** course are **£1,700**. There may be additional costs for field trips, such as entry to exhibitions, which will be in the region of **£10 - £20**.

All reading material is provided digitally so you are not required to purchase any books.

Assessments:

The course assessments are not compulsory, however, if you wish to transfer credit for this course to your home university it is essential to complete the assignments.

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Preparation:

Before you arrive on campus, it is advised that you familiarise yourself with the course content before it begins. You will be given instructions for accessing our Virtual Learning Environment (QMplus) before you arrive on campus.

Teaching:

The course is taught in two two-hour sessions per day (10.00 - 12.00 and 13.00 - 15.00), held Monday to Thursday each week.

Course content:

Session 1	London and Urban Modernity: Introduction to the Course and Course Overview / Experiencing World Cities, Experiencing London
Session 2	Theories of Modernity and 19th-Century London / Scenes of the City: Dickens' Sketches by Boz
Session 3	Walking Tour of Dickens' London / Travelogue workshop
Session 4	London between Two Wars: Modernism and the Avant-Garde / London in Modern Art and Virginia Woolf's <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>
Session 5	Transformations of Urban Space in Interwar London / Postwar London: Subcultures and Multiculturalism (screening of <i>My Beautiful Laundrette</i>)
Session 6	Discussion of the film screening / Thatcherism and the Postmodern (advice on essay writing and assessment)
Session 7	Visit to the Tate Britain / Images of London
Session 8	London in the 21 st century / Multicultural London: A walking tour of Bethnal Green and Brick Lane
Session 9	Contemporary Urban Life I: Zadie Smith, NW / The 'other' London: The 2011 Riots, Terrorism and Grenfell
Session 10	Contemporary Urban Life II: Shaun of the Dead / Discussion of the film
Session 11	Course revision: Experiencing and Capturing the City / Summary and conclusions

Please note that the information provided may be subject to change.