Boston University British Programmes
London since 1666: Imperial Capital to World City
HIxxx (Core class)
Fall 2010

Instructor Information
A. Name  Michael Peplar and Richard Weight
B. Day and Time  Class meets for 3 or 4 hours over a thirteen week period. 43 hours in total plus 2 hour final exam. Sessions below are 3 hours in duration unless stated otherwise.
C. Location
D. BU Telephone 020 7244 6255
E. Email
F. Webpage www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/[insert course number]
G. Office hours  By appointment

Course Objectives
The course aims to introduce students to the social, economic and cultural history of London since the Great Fire of 1666. In particular, the course focuses on how London developed from being the modest-sized capital city of England to capital of the British Empire and World’s largest city, before being eclipsed in size and importance by non-European cities, and then emerging as a modern, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic city within the European Union.
The course is organised into three blocks of study. After an Introductory session, Block One: The Making of an Imperial Capital: 1666-1877 looks at the period from the Great Fire to the declaration of Queen Victoria as Empress of India in 1877. The block charts the transition of London from capital of a small European nation to the World’s largest city and capital of a huge empire. Block Two: Imperial Capital, Imperial Crisis? 1890-1945 explores some of the tensions within the imperial capital, focusing on issues of class, gender, race and ethnicity before turning to look at external threats to the imperial capital from international competition and conflict. Block 3: From Imperial Capital to World City: 1945-Present Day looks at the transition of London from capital of a large empire to multi-cultural city within the European Union, a devolved United Kingdom, and a globalizing world. A concluding session considers continuity and change in the period 1666-2010.

Assessment
20% Mid-term Exam (in Week 7)
30% Term Paper (due in Week12) 2,000 words
30% Final Examination (in Week14)
20% Attendance and Participation. Throughout the course, students will be required to produce reports on the course readings in class. These will be graded.
Grading
Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria, attendance requirements and policies on plagiarism:

Course Chronology

Introduction

Session 1: London in 1666 (four hour session)
Course objectives, syllabus etc.
Lecture 1: London’s population, economy and physical extent in 1666
Lecture 2: The Great Fire and the re-building of the city
Field Visit: Museum of London or The Monument

BLOCK ONE: The Making of an Imperial Capital: 1666-1877

Session 2: Developing the Imperial Nation
Lecture 3: 1688, 1707 and 1801: Constitutional Developments and their Impact on London
Seminar Discussion on the Porter reading and on reading the 1688/1707 primary source text
Preparatory Reading: TBD – relevant primary source text from 1688 or 1707

Session 3: London and the British Industrial Revolution (four hour session)
Lecture 4: The Industrial Revolution and the Economic and Physical Expansion of London
Seminar Discussion on the Colley and Porter chapters
Lecture 5: The Great Exhibition of 1851
Field Visit: Walking tour of ‘Albertopolis’

Session 4: Imperial Capital – London and the British Empire
Lecture 6: The ‘First’ and ‘Second’ British Empires
Lecture 7: London as Imperial Capital
Preparatory Reading: TBD – chapter on the demise of the ‘First ‘ Empire from British perspective

BLOCK 2: Imperial Capital, Imperial Crisis? 1890-1945

Session 5: London: East and West
Lecture 8: ‘Into Darkest London’: Exploring the East End
Seminar Discussion: The Portrait of Dorian Gray

**Session 6: Race, Ethnicity, Independence**
**Lecture 9:** The Concept of ‘Race’ in Late Victorian England
**Seminar Discussion:** 1895 Aliens Act
**Preparatory Reading:** Extracts from 1895 Aliens Act and contemporary newspapers
**Lecture 10:** The Irish in London and Irish Home Rule
**Follow-up reading:** TBD – chapter on 1922

**Session 7: Gender Issues**

**Mid-term Exam in class**

**Lecture 11:** Separate Spheres and ‘The Women Question’
**Seminar Discussion:** Suffrage texts
**Preparatory Reading:** TBD - primary source suffrage texts
**Follow-up Reading:** Extracts from Leonore Davidoff & Catherine Hall, *Family Fortunes*, Routledge, 2002

**Session 8: Competition and Conflict (four hour session)**
**Lecture 12:** Economic Competition and World Wars I and II
**Field visit:** Cabinet War Rooms
**Follow-up Reading:** Stephen Inwood, *A History of London*, Chapter 24 ‘Under Fire, 1939-1945’

**BLOCK 3: From Imperial Capital to World City: 1945-the present**

**Session 9: Re-building London after World War 2 (four hour class)**
**Lecture 13:** London Infrastructure, Housing and the Green Belt after 1945
**Preparatory Reading:** TBD – chapter to introduce post-1945 Welfare State
**Seminar Discussion:** Inwood Chapter 24 and Welfare State chapter
**Field Trip:** Walking Tour of South Bank

**Session 10: The Post-1945 London Economy**
**Seminar Discussion:** London’s South Bank – reflection on Walking Tour and Inwwod Chapter 25
**Lecture 14:** World financial centre, service industries, culture industries and tourism

**Session 11: Multi-cultural London**
**Lecture 15:** Migrants from the former Empire; EEC migrants; EU expansion and migrants from Eastern Europe; conflict and migration, 1950s and 1980s riots
**Seminar Discussion:** McInnes or Sevlon novel
**Field Trip:** Windrush Square, Brixton
**Preparatory Reading:** Colin McInnes, *City of Spades* (1957) or Sam Sevlon, *Lonely Londoners* (1958)
**Follow-up Reading:** Catherine Hall, ‘British Cultural Identities and the Legacy of Empire’, in David Morley & Kevin Robins (eds), *British Cultural Studies* OUP, Oxford, 2001
Session 12: London and the UK; London and Europe; London and the World

Lecture 16: Devolution of power to Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast and the transfer of power from London to Brussels

Seminar Discussion: London as World City


**Term Paper due**

Conclusion

Session 13: London 1666 and 2010: Continuity and Change

Lecture 17: London in 2010

Seminar Discussion: Continuity and change in London, 1666-2010

Course review, exam preparation.

** Contingency Class Date: TBC. Should any class dates need to be rescheduled, students are obligated to keep this date free to attend classes.

Students must check their email and the weekly Student Newsletter for field trip updates and reminders, if any are to be included.

Session 14: Final Examination

Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

Reading

The required reading for each class session is indicated in the Course Chronology. Preparatory Reading should be completed before the start of the relevant class. Follow-up reading should be competed before the start of the next class.

Indicative Supplementary and Secondary Reading

These texts will help with background and with the research for term papers and the final examination. All texts are all available in the BU London Library.

Derek Keene, ‘Growth, modernisation and control: The transformation of London’s landscape, c.1500-1760’ in Peter Clark & Raymond Gillespie (eds), *Two Capitals: London and Dublin 1500-1840*, Oxford University Press, 2001

Additional readings may be posted on the course webpage: http://www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/[insert course number] (you must be logged in to view materials).