



Boston University International Programs

London

DRAFT

**Boston University British Programmes**  
**London since 1666: Imperial Capital to World City**  
**Hlxxx (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	<a href="http://www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/[insert course number]">www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/[insert course number]</a>
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:

<http://www.bu-london.co.uk/files/images/ACADEMICHANDBOOKFA09.pdf>.

## **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

**Follow-up Reading:** Roy Porter, 'The Wonderful Extent and Variety of London' in Sheila O'Connell (ed), *London 1753*, British Museum Press, London, 2003

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## **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

**Follow-up Reading:** Linda Colley, *Britons – Forging the Nation 1707-1837*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Pimlico Press, London, 2003, Chapter 1 'Protestants'

### **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'

**Preparatory Reading:** Roy Porter, *English Society in the Eighteenth Century*, Pelican Books, London, 1992, Chapter 8, 'Towards Industrial Society'

### **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

**Follow-up Reading:** C A Bayly, *Imperial Meridian – The British Empire and the World 1780-1830*, Longman, London, 1989, Chapter 4, "Britain's New Imperial Age"

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## **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*

**Preparatory Reading:** Oscar Wilde, *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*, (London, 1891)

**Follow-up Reading:** Stephen Inwood, *City of Cities – The Birth of Modern London*, Macmillan, London, 2005, Chapter 4, 'The Discovery of Poverty'

### **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'

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## **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 Inwood Chapter 25

**Lecture 14:** World financial centre, service industries, culture industries and tourism

**Preparatory Reading:** Stephen Inwood, *A History of London*, Chapter 25 'Postwar London, 1945-65'

### **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

**Preparatory Reading:** Doreen Massey, *World City*, Polity, Cambridge, 2007, Introduction and Chapter 1, 'Capital Delight' pp1-53

**\*\*Term Paper due\*\***

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## **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 completed 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.

Peter Ackroyd, *London: The Biography*, Vintage, London, 2001

C A Bayly, *Imperial Meridian – The British Empire and the World 1780-1830*, Longman, London, 1989

C A Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914*, Blackwell, Oxford, 2004

Asa Briggs, *The Age of Improvement*, Pearson Education, London, 1959

Linda Colley, *Britons – Forging the Nation 1707-1837*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Pimlico Press, London, 2003

Leonore Davidoff & Catherine Hall, *Family Fortunes*, Routledge, London, 2002

David Feldman, and Gareth Steadman Jones, *Metropolis London*, Routledge, London, 1989

Simon Foxell, *Mapping London: Making Sense of the City*, Black Dog, London, 2007

Paul Griffiths & SR Jenner (eds), *Londonopolis: Essays in the Culture and Social History of Early Modern London c. 1500-1750*, Manchester University Press, 2001

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

Joe Kerr & Andrew Gibson (eds), *London – From Punk to Blair*, Reaktion Books, London 2003

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

Stephen Inwood, *City of Cities – The Birth of Modern London*, Macmillan, London, 2005

Doreen Massey, *World City*, Polity, Cambridge, 2007

Julia Merritt (ed), *Imagining Early Modern London: Perceptions, and Portrayals of the City from Stow to Strype, 1598-1720*, Cambridge University Press, 2007

David Morley & Kevin Robins (eds), *British Cultural Studies* OUP, Oxford, 2001

Sheila O'Connell (ed), *London 1753*, British Museum Press, London, 2003

Miles Ogborn, *Spaces of Modernity: London's Geographies, 1680-1780*, Guilford Press, London and New York, 1998

Lena Cowen Orlin (ed) *Material London*, U Penn Press, 2000

Roy Porter, *English Society in the Eighteenth Century*, Pelican Books, London, 1992

Roy Porter, *London: A Social History*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA, 1994

Gareth Stedman Jones, *Outcast London*, Penguin, 1976

E.P. Thompson, *The Making of English Working Class*, Vintage, London, 1963

Peter Thorold, *The London Rich*, St. Martins Press, New York, 2000

Richard Weight, *Patriots: National Identity in Britain 1940-2000*, Pan, London, 2003

Jerry White, *London in the Nineteenth Century*, Vintage, London 2008

Jerry White, *London in the Twentieth Century*, Vintage, London 2008

Peter Whitfield, *London: A Life in Maps*, British Library, London, 2006

Robert Winder, *Bloody Foreigners – The Story of Immigration to Britain*, Little Brown, London, 2004

Additional readings may be posted on the course webpage:

[http://www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/\[insert course number\]](http://www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/[insert course number]) (you must be logged in to view materials).