



**Boston University International Programs**  
London

**Boston University British Programmes**  
**Research seminar in the Literature of London**  
**CAS EN 391**  
**Fall 2010**

**Instructor Information**

A. Name	Mark Allen with other faculty
B. Day and Time	TBA
C. Location	Room TBA, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU
D. BU Telephone	020 7244 6255
E. Email	
F. Webpage	<a href="http://www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/[coursenumber]">www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/[coursenumber]</a>
G. Office hours	By appointment

**Course Objectives**

This course aims to give students an informed sense of some of the wide variety of ways that are available to them in pursuing the interpretation and evaluation of literary texts. At the same time, it will aim to guide them through the process of writing of a lengthy and thorough research paper that reflects both the work done in class and the reading and analysis that the student has engaged in on their own. The texts in question will all involve the exploration of various aspects of the city of London

Class sessions will involve the close study of a number of works in order to highlight some of the different possibilities of interpretation that are inherent in reading, and the strong emphasis placed upon the class presentations of the students will encourage them to develop their own awareness of how to orchestrate their own readings in such a way as to produce a substantial and sophisticated piece of undergraduate research work.

To facilitate this, the course will require students to choose an area of research that may well involve an author or topic outside the range of the texts covered in class. They will then engage in detailed discussion of their proposed work with the given tutor that they have been assigned.

Naturally, classes will also involve the discussion of various sites of historical significance, and as well as introducing students to some of the galleries and museums of the capital, special attention will be paid to highlighting the nature and extent of the collections in both the London Library and the British Library.

**Methodology**

The course will be taught over 15 weeks. The first five sessions will be devoted to research methods while the rest of the term will be concentrating on research and writing.

Some sessions in the Methods Phase will be divided into two parts. The first part of these sessions will look at research principles while the second part of the session will focus on

specific concepts and methods. Each session during the Methods Phase will be complemented with a visit to a historic site or collection to support students' work and understanding of different research methods. These sessions will meet for around four hours, dependent on field trips.

During the Research and Writing Phase, students will spend more time with lecturers in tutorials to review individual concerns and issues as their research paper progresses. Individual student tutorials can last up to 60 minutes in length. During this time, the student's tutor will review the progress of the individual student's research paper. This may include a review of methods used, sources consulted, or how a student's argument/thesis is being developed. The topics covered during individual tutorial meetings will be determined by an individual student's need. Each student will be assigned a tutor dependent on the student's research subject. Tutors will be selected from among the London Programme English faculty. There will be at least one session when the group will meet as a whole to discuss their progress as well as any issues. There will also be a final group session where students will discuss their key findings.

### **Assessment**

Class presentations – 20%

Draft Proposal for research paper (600 words)– 20%

Research Paper (4,000-5,000 words) – 60%

### **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/ACADEMICHANDBOOKSU09.pdf>.

### **Course Chronology**

<b>Session 1:</b>	<b>Introduction: What is a literature research paper?</b> Literature and the literary, the question of autonomy, the interpretation of literary language. Overview of approaches to research: author study, genre study, period study, in-depth analysis of single text.
<b>Class reading:</b>	Viktor Shklovsky, 'Art as Technique' and Mikhail Bakhtin, 'Discourse in the Novel' (both taken from <i>Literary Theory: An Anthology</i> eds., J.Rivkin & M.Ryan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed., 2004)
<b>Visit:</b>	British Library

**At this point students will be assigned tasks for presentations in future sessions**

<b>Session 2:</b>	<b>Literature and psychoanalysis.</b> Reading De Quincey in relation to Freud.
<b>Class reading:</b>	Excerpts from Thomas De Quincey's <i>Suspiria De Profundis...</i> and Sigmund Freud's <i>Five Lectures on Psycho-Analysis</i> (texts taken from Thomas De Quincey <i>Confessions of an English Opium-Eater and other writings</i> ed.G.Lindop,1985 & Sigmund Freud's <i>Five Lectures on Psycho-Analysis</i> reprint of standard edition with introduction by P.Gay,1989).
<b>Visit:</b>	Globe Theatre Library & Archive

<b>Session 3:</b>	<b>Forming a research question.</b> Students will perform a basic literature search exercise using the BU
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London library and online sources.

**Literature and gender.**

Gender roles and the nature of female identity.

**Class reading:**

Excerpts from Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* (eds., E.Showalter & S.McNichol, 2000) & from J.B.Miller *Psychoanalysis and Women* (1973)

**Visits:**

The Women's Library/Bloomsbury Walk

**Session 4:**

**Literature and Ideology.**

Power, repression and society.

**Class reading:**

Louis Althusser, 'Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses', John Fiske, 'Culture, Ideology, Interpellation' (both taken from *Literary Theory: An Anthology* eds., J.Rivkin & M.Ryan, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., 1998) and Jeremy Tambling, 'Prison-Bound : Dickens and Foucault (*Great Expectations* )' (taken from S.Connor ed. *Charles Dickens (Longman Critical Readers)*1996) and Charles Dickens *Great Expectations* (eds., M.Cardwell & R.Douglas-Fairhurst, 2008)

**Visit:**

Dickens House Museum/ Dr Johnson's House

**Session 5:**

**New Historicism and post-colonial writing**

**Class Reading:**

Michel Foucault, 'Discipline and Punish', Louis Montrose, 'Professing the Renaissance ; The Poetics & Politics of Culture', Ania Loomba, 'Situating Colonial and Postcolonial Studies' and Anne McClintock, 'The Angel of Progress : Pitfalls of the Term, "Post-Colonialism"' (All taken from *Literary Theory : An Anthology* eds., J.Rivkin & M.Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2004)

**Visit:**

Poetry Library

**Session 6:**

**Detailed analysis and evaluation of student's draft proposal in sessions with various assigned tutors.** Final version to be presented before Session 7.

**Session 7:**

**Student tutorials**

**Session 8:**

**Student tutorials**

**Session 9:**

**Student tutorials**

**Session 10:**

**Group session: student presentations**

On progress to date.

**Session 11:**

**Student tutorials**

**Session 12:**

**Student tutorials**

**Session 13:**

**Student tutorials**

**Session 14:**

**'Stocktaking':** Group sessions involving the analysis and discussion of each student's research paper. The final research paper would be submitted at the close of this session.

**Readings**

The primary reading text for each session is indicated in the chronology section. The reading assigned is the basis for discussion in that class session.

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