



**Boston University** International Programs  
London

**Boston University British Programmes**

**Visionary Capital: The Writing of London**

**CAS EN XXX (Core course, Literature track, History and Literature Program)**

**Fall 2010**

**Instructor Information**

A. Name	Mark Allen
B. Day and Time	TBA
C. Location	Room TBA, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU
D. BU Telephone	020 7244 6255
E. Email	<a href="mailto:arzak@waitrose.com">arzak@waitrose.com</a>
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 Description**

This course sets out to guide the student through a wide variety of poems, plays and novels that all explore the imaginative potential of the great metropolis.

The course begins with a reading of Spenser's evocation of visionary origins for the city in sections taken from his great epic *The Faerie Queene*. We will then move on to the very different and often bawdy representations of London to be found in the Elizabethan and Jacobean comedies of Dekker, Jonson and Massinger.

The Restoration saw new life breathed into the country and into the capital, and that despite a Dutch invasion fleet sailing up the Thames and the disaster that was the great fire. Students will be informed as to such contexts as they read sections of John Dryden's *Annus Mirabilis* and *Mac Flecknoe*. Here, London as a site for civic and national pride will be explored as well as its capacity for satirical laughter.

Our consideration of texts from Dryden will be supplemented by the study of the powerfully divergent voices of Rochester, Swift and Johnson. The often squalid, harsh or downright appalling aspects of the city, form an important part of its literary and actual fabric, and are involved in many of the features to be found in the emergence of the modern novel in English, as seen in Defoe's *Moll Flanders*.

From here we shall turn to an important Romantic text by Thomas De Quincey. *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* envisages the city as spectacle and phantasmagoria and also provides a unique exploration of the overcrowded poverty of early 19<sup>th</sup> century London alongside its dramatisation of the weird, imaginative impact of the metropolis on the creative mind.

The Victorian period is, of course, dominated by the superlative novels of Dickens, and at this stage the student will be asked to consider the relations that obtain between *Great Expectations* and several of the writings that preceded it, as well as looking forward in time to evaluate some of the shaping influences Dickens cast on subsequent writing of the city.

For the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, time past, present and future collide and merge in stretches of both *The Waste Land* and *The Four Quartets*, and T.S. Eliot's contemporary Virginia Woolf, *revolutionises* the treatment of the city and of human consciousness in *Mrs Dalloway*. The course will conclude with a study of Ian McEwan's novel of 2005, *Saturday*, during which students will be invited to assess the implications of the novel for contemporary life and life in London.

### **Course Objective**

Firstly, the development of a first-hand acquaintance with a large range of works that dramatise and explore London in wide variety of aspects and through different phases of historical transformation.

Secondly, a familiarisation with various methods of interpretation and analysis that will inform and strengthen critical inquiry and evaluation.

### **Assessment**

Students will be asked to produce a 2000-2500 word essay after consultation on the selection of a topic with the tutor. Selection of a topic will be confirmed with the tutor by Session 8. This essay is to be submitted in Session 13 and the grade for this essay forms 30% of the student's final grade.

Students will also be expected to give presentations involving their reading of set texts and these presentations will be evaluated and given a grade which will form 15% of the final grade.

There will also be two examinations. The first will take place in the middle of the course, at the close of the sixth session, in which the student will choose three out of five short-answer questions covering materials studied up to that point. The grade for this exam will represent 20% of the final grade.

The final examination will involve questions covering all of the authors and texts studied and the grade for this forms 30% of the final grade. Here the exam is in two parts. The student will be expected to write an essay-length answer to questions from the first part of the exam and to give a close reading of a text chosen from those texts collected in part two. Copies of texts other than those given in the exam will not be allowed into the examination room.

Attendance is compulsory and participation in the teaching sessions forms 5% of the final grade.

### **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**

**Session 1:** Edmund Spenser  
**Reading:** *The Faerie Queene* (sections 3.IX.38-46 & 4.XI.24-29)  
*Prothalamion*

**Sessions 2 & 3:** Thomas Dekker and Ben Jonson  
**Reading:** *The Shoemaker's Holiday*  
*The Alchemist*

**Session 4:** John Dryden, John Wilmot 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Rochester and Jonathan Swift  
**Reading:** *Annus Mirabilis* (stanzas 209-304)  
*MacFlecknoe*  
*A Letter From Artemisia in the Town to Chloe in the Country*  
*A Ramble in St. James Park*  
*A Description of a City Shower*  
*A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed*

**Session 5:** Daniel Defoe  
**Reading:** *Moll Flanders*.

**Sessions 6 :** Thomas De Quincey  
**Reading:** *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*  
**& mid term examination**

**Sessions 7&8 :** Charles Dickens  
**Reading:** *Great Expectations*.

**Sessions 9 & 10:** T. S. Eliot  
**Reading:** *The Waste Land* ( *A Game of Chess* & *The Fire Sermon*)  
*The Four Quartets*. (*Burnt Norton* III, *East Coker* III, *The Dry Salvages* II & V, *Little Gidding* II,III & IV.)

**Sessions 11 & 12:** Virginia Woolf  
**Reading:** *Mrs Dalloway*.

**Session 13:** Ian McEwan  
**Reading:** *Saturday*

#### **Session 14 : Final Examination**

\* **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.

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

#### **Readings**

The **required reading** for each class session is indicated in the Course Chronology and utilises the following editions. **Copies of all poetry to be studied will be handed out in class.**

- Dekker, Thomas. *The Shoemaker's Holiday*. Eds., R. L. Smallwood & S. Wells. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1999.
- Defoe, Daniel. *Moll Flanders*. Ed., D. Blewett. London: Penguin Books Ltd., 1989.
- De Quincey, Thomas. *The Confessions of an English Opium-Eater and Other Writings*. Ed. G. Lindop. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. Ed. M. Cardwell; R. Douglas-Fairhurst. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Dryden, John. 'Annus Mirabilis.' *Dryden: Selected Poems*. Eds. P. Hammond & D. Hopkins. (Longmans Annotated English Poets). Edinburgh: Pearson Education Ltd, 2007.
- Dryden, John. 'Mac Flecknoe.' *Dryden: Selected Poems*. Eds. P. Hammond & D. Hopkins. (Longmans Annotated English Poets). Edinburgh: Pearson Education Ltd, 2007.
- Eliot, T. S. 'The Four Quartets.' *The Complete Poems and Plays of T. S. Eliot*. London: Faber and Faber, 1969.
- Eliot, T. S. 'The Waste Land.' *The Complete Poems and Plays of T. S. Eliot*. London: Faber and Faber, 1969.
- Jonson, Ben. *The Alchemist*. Ed., A. B. Kernan. New Haven : Yale University Press, 1974.
- McEwan. *Saturday*. Colchester (UK): Vintage, 2006.
- Spenser, Edmund. *The Faerie Queene*. Eds. A.C. Hamilton, H. Yamashita & T. Suzuki. (Longmans Annotated English Poets). Edinburgh: Pearson Education Ltd, 2007.
- Spenser, Edmund. 'Prothalamion.' *Shorter Poems: A Selection*. Ed. J. M. Dent. London: Everyman, 1998.
- Swift, Jonathan. 'A Description of a City Shower.' *Jonathan Swift: The Complete Poems*. Ed. P. Rogers. London: Penguin Books Ltd., 1983.
- Swift, Jonathan. 'A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed.' *Jonathan Swift: The Complete Poems*. Ed. P. Rogers. London: Penguin Books Ltd., 1983.
- Wilmot, John. 'A Letter From Artemisia in the Town to Chloe in the Country.' *John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester: The Complete Works*. Ed. F. H. Ellis. London: Penguin Books Ltd., 1994.
- Wilmot, John. 'A Ramble in St. James Park.' *John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester: The Complete Works*. Ed. F. H. Ellis. London: Penguin Books Ltd., 1994.
- Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs Dalloway*. Eds., E. Showalter & S. McNichol. London: Penguin Books Ltd., 2000.

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

## Supplementary and Secondary Reading:

Many of the following texts will be invaluable for researching papers and presentations, and for preparing for the final examination. All books will be available in the BU London Library or other academic libraries in London (Students will have a meeting on libraries in London during orientation week). There will be an opportunity for students to meet with the lecturer to discuss reading lists for their selected paper topics.

### General

- P.Ackroyd *London: The Biography* (200)
- C.McEachern *The Poetics of English Nationhood 1590-1612* (1996)
- A.L.Beier & R.Finlay eds., *London 1500-1700: The Making of the Metropolis* (1986)
- L.Manley ed, *London in the Age of Shakespeare: An Anthology* (1986)
- L.Manley *Literature and Culture in Early Modern London* (1995)
- D.Bruster *Drama and the Market in the Age of Shakespeare* (2005)
- D.Grantley *London in Early Modern English Drama: Representing the Built Environment* (2008)
- J.G.Turner *Libertines and Radicals in Early Modern London :Sexuality,Politics,and Literary Culture,1630-1685* (2001)
- J.Lindsay *Monster City : Defoe's London,1688-1730* (1978)
- A.Robinson *Imagining London,1770-1900* (2006)
- J.Chandler & K.Gilmartin *Romantic Metropolis : The Urban Scene of British Culture,1780-1840* (2005)
- L.Picard *Victorian London : The Life of A City,1840-1870* (2006)
- J.Tambling *Going Astray: Dickens and London* (2008)
- M.Dickens,J.Greaves & A.R.Williams *the London of Charles Dickens* (2006)
- N.Freeman *Conceiving the City : London,Literature,and Art 1870-1914* (2007)
- L.Philips ed. *A Mighty Mass of Brick and Smoke : Victorian and Edwardian Representations of London* (2007)
- J.M.Wilson *Virginia Woolf's London : A Guide to Bloomsbury and Beyond* (2000)
- S.M.Squier *Virginia Woolf and London : The Sexual Politics of the City* (1985)
- R.Williams *The Country and The City* (1973)

### Spenser

- H.Berger Jr., *Revisionary Play : Studies in the Spenserian Dynamic* (1988)
- A.C.Hamilton *The Structure of Allegory in the Faerie Queene* (1961)
- E.Heale *The Faerie Queene A Reader's Guide* (1987)
- W.H.Herenden *From Landscape to Literature : The River and the Myth of Geography* (1986)
- C.S.Lewis *The Allegory of Love* (1936)
- W.Nelson *The Poetry of Edmund Spenser : A Study* (1963)
- P.A.Parker *Inescapable Romance : Studies in the Poetics of a Mode* (1979)
- T.P.Roche *Kindly Flame* (1964)
- H.Tonkin *The Faerie Queene* (1989)
- M.L.Wine 'Spenser's "Sweete Themmes" : Of Time and the River' in H.Berger Jr., ed *Spenser: A Collection of Critical Essays* (1968)

### Dekker

- A.Brown 'Citizen Comedy and Domestic Drama,' in *Jacobean Theatre* ed., J.R.Brown (Stratford-Upon-Avon Studies,1,1960)
- L.S.Champion *Thomas Dekker and the traditions of English Drama* (1985)
- D.Mehl,A.Stock & A.J.Zwierhein eds., *Plotting Early Modern London : New Essays in Jacobean City comedy* (2004)
- K.E.Mcluskie *Dekker and Heywood : Professional Dramatists* (19993)

G.R.Price *Thomas Dekker* (1969)  
H.E.Toliver 'The Shoemaker's Holiday : Theme and Image' in *Shakespeare's Contemporaries*  
ed., M.Bluestone & N.Rabkin (second ed.,1970)  
S.Wells 'Thomas Dekker and London' in the same author's *Shakespeare and Co., ...* (2007)

### **Jonson**

A.Barton *Ben Jonson, Dramatist* (1984)  
R.A.Cave *Ben Jonson* (Macmillan English Dramatists,1991)  
B.Gibbons *Jacobean City Comedy* (rev.ed.,1980)  
A.Leggatt *Citizen Comedy in the Age of Shakespeare* (1973)  
S.McEvoy *Ben Jonson, Renaissance Dramatist.* (2008)  
E.B.Partridge *The Broken Compass..* (1958)  
P.Womack *Ben Jonson* (ReReading Literature Series,1986)

### **Dryden**

I.Jack *Augustan Satire* (1952)  
E.Miner *Dryden's Poetry* (1967)  
A.Roper *Dryden's Poetic Kingdoms* (1965)  
B.N.Schilling ed., *Dryden : A Collection of Critical Essays* (1963)  
C.Wall *The Literary and Cultural Spaces of Restoration London* (2006- also use for Swift and Defoe.)  
J.A.Winn *John Dryden and His World* (1987)  
S.N.Zwicker ed., *The Cambridge Companion to John Dryden* (2004)

### **Rochester**

B.Everett, 'Rochester : The Sense of Nothing' in her *Poets in Their Time* (1986)  
D.Farley-Hills *Rochester's Poetry* (1978)  
D.H.Griffin *Satires Against Man : The Poems of Rochester* (1973)  
D.Vieth ed., *John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester : Critical Essays* (1988)  
M.Thormahlen *Rochester: The Poems in Context* (1993)  
J.Treglown ed., *Spirit of Wit : Reconsiderations of Rochester* (1982)

### **Swift**

M.Ellis, 'Poetry and the City' in C.Gerrard ed., *A Companion to Eighteenth-Century Poetry*  
(2006)  
J.I.Fischer *On Swift's Poetry* (1978)  
J.I.Fischer & D.C.Mell eds., *Contemporary Studies of Swift's Poetry* (1981)  
B.Hammond, 'The City in Eighteenth –Century Poetry' in J.Sitter ed., *The Cambridge  
Companion to Eighteenth-Century Poetry* (2001)  
P.Rogers, 'Swift the poet' in C.Fox ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Swift* (2003)  
P.J.Schackel *The Poetry of Jonathan Swift* (1978)

### **DeFoe**

P.Baines *Daniel Defoe – Robinson Crusoe/Moll Flanders. Reader's Guide to Essential Criticism*  
(2007)  
H.Gladfelder *Criminality and Narrative in Eighteenth –Century England: Beyond the Law*  
(2001)  
N.Lacey *Women, Crime and Character : From Moll Flanders to Tess of the D'Urbevilles* (2008)  
M.Novak *Economics and the Fiction of Daniel Defoe* (1962/1976)  
G.A.Starr *Defoe and Spiritual Biography* (1965)  
I.Watt *The Rise of The Novel* (1957)

E.Zimmerman *Defoe and the Novel* (1975)

### **De Quincey**

J.Barrell *The Infection of Thomas De Quincey...* (1991)

E.Baxter *De Quincey's Art of Autobiography* (1990,ch.,1)

V.A.De Luca *Thomas De Quincey : The Prose of Vision* (1980)

R.Morrison 'Earthquake and Eclipse : Radical Energies and De Quincey's 1821 Confessions' in R. Morrison & D.S.Roberts eds., *Thomas De Quincey : New Theoretical and Critical Directions* (2007)

C.J.Rzepka *Sacramental Commodities...* (1995)

R.L.Snyder ed., *Thomas De Quincey : Bicentenary Studies* (1985)

J.C.Whale *Thomas De Quincey's Reluctant Autobiography* (1984)

### **Dickens**

P.Collins *Dickens and Crime* (1962)

S.Connor ed., *Charles Dickens ; Longman Critical Readers* (1996, see the pieces by Brooks, Morris and Tambling)

K.Flint *Dickens* (1986)

J.H.Miller *Charles Dickens : The World of His Novels* (1958)

A.Sadrin *Great Expectations* (1994)

N.Tredell ed., *Charles Dickens Great Expectations : Icon Critical Guides* (1998)

S.Wall ed. *Charles Dickens : A Critical Anthology* (1970)

### **Eliot**

C.Bedient *He Do the Police in Different Voices...* (1987)

S.Coote *Eliot's Waste Land* (1988)

D.Donoghue *Words Alone: The Poet T.S.Eliot* (2002)

H.Gardner *The Composition of The Four Quartets* (1978)

H.Kenner *The Invisible Poet, T.S.Eliot* (1959)

A.D.Moody *Thomas Stearns Eliot, Poet* (1980)

L.Rainey *Revisiting the Waste Land* (2006)

L.Rainey ed., *The Annotated Waste Land with Eliot's Contemporary Prose* (2006)

G.Smith *T.S.Eliot's Poetry and Plays : A Study in Sources and Meaning* (rev.,1974)

A. Tate ed., *T.S.Eliot, the Man and his Work* (1967)

### **Woolf**

N.T.Bazin *Virginia Woolf and the Androgynous Vision* (1973)

M.Di Battista *Virginia Woolf's Major Novels* (1980)

A.Fleishman *Virginia Woolf, A Critical Reading* (1975)

R.Freedman ed., *Virginia Woolf : Revaluation and Continuity* (1980)

M.A.Leaska *The Novels of Virginia Woolf* (1977)

S.Reid *Mrs Dalloway & To The Lighthouse (New CaseBooks)* (1993)

### **McEwan**

P.Childs ed., *The Fiction of Ian McEwan (Reader's Guides to Essential Criticism)* (2005)

S.Groes ed., *Ian McEwan : Contemporary Critical Perspectives* (2009)

D.Head *Ian McEwan (Contemporary British Novelists series)* (2007)

L.Wells *Ian McEwan (New British Fiction series)* (2009)

For more on *Saturday* see the Reviews and Interviews listings below the page dedicated to the novel on Ian McEwan's website; [www.ianmcewan.com](http://www.ianmcewan.com)