Cultural Capital: The History of Popular Culture in London
CAS HI 251  (Elective B)
Spring 2013

Instructor Information
A. Name  Michael Peplar and Kathryn Lamontagne

Course Description
In this history course we will trace the development of popular culture in London from the late eighteenth century to the present day. The course will be concerned with popular cultural ‘texts’ (books, songs, films, television programmes etc.) as well as popular cultural sites – the spaces in which cultural texts are shown or produced (cinemas, music halls, football stadia etc.). After some discussion of cultural theory, the course is organised chronologically, beginning with the precursors and early origins of modern popular culture and progressing towards the present day.

Course Objectives
• The course aims to give students an introduction to the history of popular culture in London.
• Students will be introduced to ways of thinking about popular culture through consideration of relevant theories and debates.
• Students will also be introduced to the wider context of the social, economic and cultural history of Britain in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Methodology (Teaching Pattern)
There will be a mixture of lectures, seminar discussions, field visits and student presentations.

Attendance Policy

Classes
All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

Authorised Absence:
Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness, for which students should submit the Authorised
Absence Approval Form with the required doctor’s note as soon as possible). **Please note:** Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorised absence

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:
- Illness, supported by a local London doctor’s note (submitted with Authorised Absence Approval Form).
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

**The Directors will only in the most extreme cases (for example, death in close family) allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.**

**Unauthorised Absence:**
Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a **4% grade penalty** to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a ‘Fail’ in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

**Lateness**
Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will require a meeting with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

**Reading**


**Required reading** is noted below in the Course Chronology. It is essential that all students read and reflect upon the relevant Preparatory Reading *before* each class. Follow-up Reading should be completed before the next class.

Additional required readings will be posted on the course webpage: [https://lms.bu.edu](https://lms.bu.edu) (you must be logged in to view materials).

**Supplementary and Secondary Reading:**
The following texts are useful for expanding upon the required reading, for researching seminar papers and for preparing for the final examination.

All books are available in the BU London Library at 43 Harrington Gardens.

**Section 1**

**On Popular Culture generally:**

**Section 2**

**On London:**

**Section 3**

**On particular areas of (Popular) Culture:**
Susie Gilbert, *Opera for Everybody – The Story of English National Opera*
Jeffrey Hill, *Sport, Leisure and Culture in Twentieth Century Britain*, Palgrave, Basingstoke, 2002

Students will benefit from reading a general introduction to nineteenth century British history, for example, Michael Lynch, *An Introduction to Nineteenth Century British History 1800-1914.*

**Course Assessment**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Seminar Presentation 30%
Attendance and Participation 10%

1. The Mid-term Quiz will test your factual knowledge. It will be a one-hour class exercise with c. 20 questions requiring short answers (e.g. multiple choice; some one-word answers; some short paragraphs).

2. There will be an end-of-course 2-hour final examination worth 40% of your final grade. You will need to answer one required general question on popular culture and one further question (from a selection) on specific popular cultural forms or topics. The grade you receive for the final examination will be based upon:
   - The relevance of your answer to the question/topic set
   - Clarity of expression and continuity
   - Evidence of reading and thought related to the question/topic
   - Quality of the arguments presented
   - Merit will be given for evidence of reading from the Supplementary and Secondary Reading list.

3. You will also be required, as part of a pair, to make a seminar presentation in which you introduce, comment on and contextualize at least one specific popular cultural text. Presentations will take place in Session 9. Topics for seminar presentations should be agreed with the tutors by Session 6. Presentations should last between 15 and 20 minutes, including time for questions. Both content and presentation skills will be assessed. You should submit slides and notes from your presentation to the tutors at Session 9.

4. Class attendance and participation will form part of the final grade. Evidence of having read and reflected upon the course texts will be rewarded.

Grading
Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and information on plagiarism: http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester
Course Chronology

25 February Session One: Introduction: London and Popular Culture

Introduction to syllabus and assessment.

Seminar discussion: Storey reading (KL)
Lecture 1: London - ‘First City of Modern Popular Culture”? (MP)
Seminar discussion: Bartholomew Fair, description, from The Gentlemen’s Magazine, 1764 (MP)

Preparatory Reading: John Storey, Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction, Chapter 1
Follow-up Reading: JM Golby and AW Purdue, The Civilisation of the Crowd, Chapter 1

4 March Session Two: Victorian Popular Culture (1): Music Hall

Seminar discussion: Review Golby and Purdue reading (KL)
Lecture 2: Introduction to Music Hall (MP)
Seminar discussion: Following In Father’s Footsteps, Music Hall song (MP)
Screening: BBC TV The Story of Music Hall extract. Followed by discussion (KL)
***Evening Fieldtrip: Wilton’s Music Hall (ends c. 7.30pm)

Follow-up Reading: Barry J Faulk, Music Hall and Modernity, extracts

11 March Three: Victorian Popular Culture (2): Literature

Seminar discussion: Faulk reading (KL)
Seminar discussion: Dickens chapters and Inwood ‘Ragged London’ (KL)
Seminar discussion: Adaptations of Oliver Twist (MP)
Lecture 3: Popular Literature in Victorian London (MP)

Preparatory Reading: 1) Inwood, Chapter 17, ‘Ragged London’
2) Charles Dickens, Oliver Twist extracts from Bentley’s Miscellany Vol 1 (1837) pp. 105-115; 218-230; 326-338; 430-441
Preparatory work: Research and be prepared to answer questions on an adaptation of Oliver Twist

18 March Session Four: Popular Culture and Mass Society (1): Cinema

In groups of two or three, please view a London-based feature film before this class and prepare a 7-10 minute review to be delivered in class.

If you intend using film clips you must practice these with Academic Affairs staff before the start of class.

Seminar: Inwood Chapter 21 (KL)
Lecture 4: Introduction to London and Cinema (MP)
Preparatory Reading: 1. Inwood, Chapter 21
Follow-up Reading: Ross McKibbin, Classes and Cultures: England 1918-51, Chapter XI

Lecture 5: The Development of Organized Sports in Britain (MP)
Seminar Discussion: McKibbin Chapter IX (KL)
Field trip: Visit to a Premier League football club (KL)

Preparatory Reading: 1) Ross McKibbin, Classes and Culture: England 1918-51, Chapter IX and 2) Inwood, Chapter 22
Follow-up Reading: Andrew Horrell, Popular Culture in London, Chapter 11

*** 1 April – No Class - Easter Break ***

8 April Session Six: Popular Culture in and after the World Wars

MID-TERM QUIZ (1 hour in class)

Seminar Discussion: Inwood Chapters 23 & 24 (KL)
Lecture 7: London on Television (MP)

Preparation: Watch and be prepared to comment on at least one London-based TV programme (MP)

Preparatory Reading: Stephen Inwood, Chapter 23 (esp. pp 708-721 and 762-773) & Chapter 24
Follow-up Reading: Jerry White, London in the Twentieth Century, extracts on Blackboard

Seminar Presentation subjects should be agreed by today.

15 April Session Seven: 1960s and ‘Swinging London’

Screening: Extracts from Look At Life: Swingin’ London (MP)
Lecture 8: ‘Swinging London’ and Popular Culture (MP)
Field trip: Walking tour of Soho including Carnaby Street (RW and KL)

Preparatory Reading: Inwood, Chapter 25
Follow-up Reading: Richard Weight, Patriots, Part 5 ‘Swingers’, pp 357-399

16 April Session Eight: Post–‘Swinging-London’: Towards Postmodern Popular Culture?

Seminar discussion: Richard Weight reading and Inwood Chapter 26 (KL)
Lecture 9: From Punk to Britpop (MP)

Preparatory Reading: Inwood. Chapter 26
Follow-up Reading: Jon Savage, ‘Introduction’, England’s Dreaming, Faber and Faber, 2001

22 April Session Nine: Student Presentations plus Course Review

Lecture 10: Contemporary Popular Culture (MP)
Seminar discussion: Re-reading John Storey, Cultural Theory and Popular Culture, Chapter 1 (KL)
Course Review and Exam Preparation
Preparatory Reading: Please re-read John Story, *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction*, Chapter 1

Student Presentations (Max 8 presentations)

You must confirm any audio-visual needs with Academic Affairs staff by Friday 19 April and must practice using the relevant audio-visual aids with Academic Affairs staff by the morning of 22 April.

*Contingency Class Date: Wednesday 24th April.* Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled.

**Final Exam** **Thursday 25th April** Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

**Terms and Conditions**

If you have problems with the availability of reading materials (all of which should be in the library) please contact me either through the Academic Affairs Office or via e-mail.