



**Boston University Study Abroad**  
London

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**London Women's Social History from Aphra Behn to the Blitz**  
**CAS WS 310/HI 249 (*Elective A*)**  
**SPRING 2016**

**Instructor Information**

A. Name	Dr Diane Atkinson
B. Day and Time	Mondays and Tuesdays, 1.15-5.15pm (Plus 13 <sup>th</sup> January and Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February)
C. Location	Wetherby, 43 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU
D. BU Telephone	020 7244 6255
E. Email	<a href="mailto:drdianeatkinson@aol.com">drdianeatkinson@aol.com</a>
F. Webpage	<a href="http://www.dianeatkinson.co.uk">http://www.dianeatkinson.co.uk</a>
G. Office hours	By appointment

**Course Objectives**

Over 10 four-hour sessions, this course examines the lives of women in London over the past three centuries from a social history perspective. Students will study patches of history from the 1660s and up to and including the role of women during the Second World War. One of the aims is to introduce and broaden students' experience of working with primary source materials and London is a splendid resource for students who are interested in this aspect of studying and writing history. During the course a subject of the students' own choosing will be developed and studied critically using a range of primary and secondary source material to produce a research essay of between 2,500 – 3,000 words.

**Methodology**

Classroom lectures and tutorials will be supplemented by visits to museums, galleries, reference libraries, a historic house and two guided walks.

Students are encouraged to make use of specialist academic libraries throughout London. Students will have a session about London libraries as part of their orientation week and will attend inductions to the specialist libraries for which they will receive memberships. Students will also receive information on visiting specialist libraries open to the public.

**Assessment**

Research essay (3,000 words)	50%
Participation	10%
Mid-term quiz	20%
Final Exam	20%

## **Grading**

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism: <http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester>

*\*Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.*

## **Attendance Policy**

### **Classes**

All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, seminar, 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. This may result in the student having to take a medical leave of absence from the programme or withdraw from 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 more than one day. In this situation 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 (first day of sickness): If a student is too ill to attend class, the student must phone the BU London Student Affairs Office (who will in turn contact the student's lecturer).
- Illness (multiple days): If a student is missing more than one class day due to illness, the student must call into to the BU London Student Affairs Office each day the student is ill. Students must also provide the Student Affairs office with a completed Authorised Absence Approval Form and sick note from a local doctor excusing their absence from class.
- 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 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 be required to meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

## **Course Chronology**

	<b>LECTURE</b>	<b>CLASSROOM DISCUSSION</b>
<b>SESSION 1</b> <b>Wed 13 Jan</b>	Orientation to the course ‘The Weaker Vessel’: attitudes to women in the 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries	<i>Who was Aphra Behn ?</i> <b><i>Visit to the Museum of London</i></b> <i>Task: where are the women?</i>
<b>Reading:</b>	Antonia Fraser, <i>The Weaker Vessel’: Women’s Lot in 17<sup>th</sup> Century England</i> Part 1 ‘As It Was – This Blessed Knot’, the first 4 sections	
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<b>SESSION 2</b> <b>Mon 18 Jan</b>	<b>Visit to the National Portrait Gallery</b> to see selected portraits of women from the period under review	<i>Guided walk to see monuments to 19<sup>th</sup> century women</i>
<b>Reading:</b>	Elizabeth Eger and Lucy Peltz, <i>Brilliant Women: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Bluestockings</i> Chapters 1, The Blue Stocking Circle	
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<b>SESSION 3</b> <b>Tues 19 Jan</b>	‘The Angel of the House’: Domestic Ideology and women’s lives, 1780-1900 <b>Visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum</b>	<i>Who were Hannah More and Mary Wollstonecraft?</i> <i>Imagine them having dinner and discussing ‘the two spheres’.</i>
<b>Reading:</b>	Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, <i>Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class</i> Chapter 3, ‘The Nursery of Virtue’ Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindication of the Rights of Women</i> , The Author’s (MW’s) Introduction and Chapter 1, The Rights and Involved Duties of Mankind Considered	
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<b>SESSION 4</b> <b>Mon 25 Jan</b>	<b>Visit to the Guildhall Library</b> to work on the research essay	<i>Tutorials</i>
<b>Reading:</b>	Stella Tillyard, <i>Aristocrats: Caroline, Emily, Louisa and Sarah Lennox 1740-1832</i> Chapter 1, Caroline and Emily	

<b>SESSION 5</b> <b>Tues 26 Jan</b>	Love and marriage in 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> century England	<i>Screening of Persuasion</i>
<b>Reading:</b>	Dorothy Thompson, <i>Queen Victoria: Gender and Power</i> Chapter 4, Victoria and John Brown Barbara Taylor, <i>Eve and the New Jerusalem: Socialism and Feminism in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century</i> , Introduction	
<b>SESSION 6</b> <b>Mon 1 Feb</b>	Queen Victoria and Feminism 'Eve and the New Jerusalem'	' <i>Vixens in Velvet</i> ' and ' <i>Hyenas in Petticoats</i> '
<b>Reading:</b>	Sylvia Pankhurst, <i>The Suffragette Movement</i> Book 4, Chapter 1  A.V. John (Ed), <i>The Men's Share?: Masculinities, Male Support and Women's Suffrage in Britain 1890-1920</i> Chapter 4, Manliness and Militancy	
<b>SESSION 7</b> <b>Tues 2 Feb</b>	'Rise Up Women!': the Militant Campaign for the Vote, 1903-1914 Men's involvement in Women's Suffrage	<b><i>Guided walk round Westminster in the footsteps of the Suffragettes</i></b>
<b>Reading:</b>	Vera Brittain, <i>Testament of Youth</i> Chapter 6, 'When the Vision Dies'  Deborah Thom, <i>Nice Girls and Rude Girls: Women Workers in World War One</i> Chapter 2, Women and Work in Wartime London	
<b>SESSION 8</b> <b>Mon 8 Feb</b>	'Keep the Home Fires Burning': Women's role in the First World War <b>Visit to the Imperial War Museum</b>	<i>Task: Audit of the evidence of women's work in the Great War and 1939-1945</i>
<b>Reading:</b>	Dorothy Sheridan, <i>Wartime Women: A Mass Observation Anthology</i> Chapter 5, Evacuation	
<b>SESSION 9</b> <b>Tues 9 Feb</b>	'Women of the Blitz': Women's Lives in London, 1938-1945 <b>Visit to the Cabinet War Rooms</b>	<i>Task: Audit of the evidence of women's role,</i>
<b>SESSION 10</b> <b>Fri 12 Feb</b>	<i>Screening of Voices of the First World War</i> <i>London Can Take It!</i> <i>The British Home Front At War</i>	<i>What work would YOU have done in both world wars, and why</i>

Students must check their email and the weekly Student Newsletter for field trip updates and reminders

**Deadline for paper:** to be handed in to the Student Affairs Office by **9am on Mon 15 Feb**

**Take Home Exam: Tuesday 16 Feb:** Students will be required to write one essay out of choice of three of the major areas studied in the course.

**\*Contingency Class Date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February** . Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled. \*

### Readings

There is no core textbook, therefore students will be directed to chapters in the following books which will be available for study from the BU British Programmes Library.

Brittain, Vera. *Testament of Youth*, 1933, reprinted Virago 1983

Davidoff, Leonore and Hall, Catherine. *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1850*, Hutchison, 1987

Eger, Elizabeth and Peltz, Lucy. *Brilliant Women: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Bluestockings*, National Portrait Gallery, 2008

Fraser, Antonia. *The Weaker Vessel': Women's Lot in 17<sup>th</sup> Century England*, Phoenix Press, 1984

John, A.V. *The Men's Share? Masculinities, Male Support and Women's Suffrage in Britain 1890-1920*, Routledge, 1987

Pankhurst, Sylvia. *The Suffragette Movement*, 1931, reprinted Virago, 1990

Sheridan, Dorothy. *Wartime Women: A Mass Observation Anthology, 1937-1945*, Phoenix 2002

Taylor, Barbara. *Eve and the New Jerusalem: Socialism and Feminism in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*, Virago, 1983

Thom, Deborah. *Nice Girls and Rude Girls: Women Workers in World War One*, I.B.Tauris, 1998

Thompson, Dorothy. *Queen Victoria: Gender and Power*, Virago, 1990

Tillyard, Stella. *Aristocrats: Caroline, Emily, Louisa and Sarah Lennox 1740-1832*, Chatto and Windus, 1994

Wollstonecraft, Mary. *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Penguin Classics, 2000

Additional reading may be found on Blackboard: <http://learn.bu.edu>

### **Selective Bibliography**

The selective bibliography is for students who want to pursue themes that have been covered in class as topics for research essays. The lecturer will also direct students to primary sources during the tutorials in Session 4. For students who select other areas for their essays, the lecturer will provide relevant titles. All books will be available in the BU Study Abroad London.

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

Olwen Hufton, *The Prospect Before Her: A History of Women in Western Europe, 1500-1800*, Vol 1, Fontana Press, 1995

Janet Todd, *The Secret Life of Aphra Behn*, Andre Deutsch, 1996

Anne Laurence, *Women in England 1500-1700*, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1994

Peter Earle, *A City Full of People: Men and Women of London 1650-1750*, Methuen, 1994

Bridget Hill, *Eighteenth Century Women: An Anthology*, George Allen and Unwin, 1984

Lyndall Gordon, *Mary Wollstonecraft: A New Genus*, Little Brown, 2005

Dan Cruickshank and Neil Burton, *Life in the Georgian City*, Viking, 1990

Anne Stott, *Hannah More: The First Victorian*, Oxford University Press, 2003

John Tosh, *A Man's Place: Masculinity and the Middle-Class Home in Victorian England*, Yale University press, 2007

Jane Rendall (Ed), *Equal or Different?: Women's Politics 1800-1914*, Basil Blackwell

Pala Bartley, *The Changing Role of Women 1815-1914*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1996

John Burnett (Ed), *Useful Toil: Autobiographies of Working People from the 1820s to the 1920s*, Penguin Books, 1974

Pat Jalland, *Women From Birth To Death: The Female Life Cycle in Britain 1830-1914*, Harvester Press, 1986

Carol Dyhouse, *Feminism and the Family in England 1880-1939*, Basil Blackwell, 1989

Catherine Hall, *White, Male and Middle Class: Explorations in Feminism and History*, Polity Press, 1992

Margaret Forster, *Significant Sisters: The Grassroots of Active Feminism 1838-1939*, Penguin Books, 1986

Atkinson Diane, *The Criminal Conversation of Mrs Norton*, Random House, 2012

Adrienne Munich, *Queen Victoria's Secrets*, Columbia University Press, 1996

Philippa Levine, *Victorian Feminism 1850-1900*, Hutchinson, 1987

Pamela Horn, *The Rise and Fall of the Victorian Servant*, Alan Sutton Publishing, 1986

Gregory Anderson (Ed), *The White Blouse Revolution: Female Office Workers Since 1870*, Manchester University Press, 1988

Angela Holdsworth, *Out of the Doll's House: The Story of Women in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, BBC Books, 1988

Sheila Rowbotham, *A Century of Women: The History of Women in Britain and the United States*, Viking, 1998,

Antonia Raeburn, *The Militant Suffragettes*, Michael Joseph, 1978

Emmeline Pankhurst, *My Own Story*, 1914, reprinted Virago, 1980

Diane Atkinson, *The Suffragettes in Pictures*, Alan Sutton Publishing, 2000

Susan Kingsley Kent, *Sex and Suffrage in Britain 1860-1914*, Princeton University Press, 1987

Julia Bush, *Women Against The Vote: Female Anti-Suffragism in Britain*, Oxford University Press, 2007

Maud Pember Reeves, *Round About A Pound A Week*, 1913, reprinted by Virago Press 1979

Martin Pugh, *Women and the Women's Movement in Britain, 1918-1959*, Macmillan, 1992

Diane Atkinson, *Elsie and Mairi Go To War: Two Extraordinary Women on the Western Front*, Random House, 2009

Gail Braybon and Penny Summerfield, *Out of the Cage: Women's Experiences in Two World Wars*, Pandora Press, 1987

Diana Condell and Jean Liddiard, *Working for Victory?: Images of Women in the First World War 1914-1918*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987

Pamela Horn, *Women in the 1920s*, Alan Sutton Publishing, 1995

Mavis Nicholson (Ed), *What Did You Do In The War Mummy?: the Experiences of Women at War*, Mandarin Books, 1991

Paul Addison, *Now the War is Over: A Social History of Britain, 1945-1951*, BBC Books, 1985