Boston University Study Abroad London

London Women's Social History from Aphra Behn to the Blitz
CAS WS 310/HI 249 (Elective A)
SPRING 2018

Instructor Information

A. Name: Dr Diane Atkinson
B. Day and Time: Mondays and Tuesdays, 1.15-5.15pm (Plus Friday 16 February). The first class scheduled will be on Wed 17 January. The contingency on Friday 9 February will be used.
C. BU Telephone
D. Email
E. Webpage
F. 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 (3,500 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 POLICIES

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.

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). The Authorised Absence Approval Request Form is available from: http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester/

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 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 a 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.
**Religious Holidays**

Boston University’s Office of the University Registrar states:

‘The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled.’

**Special Accommodations**

Each student will need to contact the Office of Disability Services to request accommodations for the semester they are abroad. Students are advised by BU-ODS not to expect the same accommodations as they receive on campus.

BU London can only uphold special accommodations if we have received the appropriate documentation from the BU-ODS. We cannot accept letters from other universities/centres.

All disabilities need to be known to the ODS in Boston if they are to be used as a reason for requiring a change in conditions, i.e. reduced internship hours or special accommodations for the internship schedule.

**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 Associate Director for Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

**Course Chronology**

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<tr>
<th>SESSION 1</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>CLASSROOM DISCUSSION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WED 17 JANUARY</td>
<td>Orientation to the course</td>
<td>Who was Aphra Behn?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>‘The Weaker Vessel’: attitudes to women in the 17th and 18th centuries</td>
<td>Visit to the Museum of London</td>
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<td>Task: where are the women?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading:</td>
<td>Antonia Fraser, <em>The Weaker Vessel</em>: Women’s Lot in 17th Century England</td>
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<td>Part 1 ‘As It Was – This Blessed Knot’, the first 4 sections</td>
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<tr>
<th>SESSION 2</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>CLASSROOM DISCUSSION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON 22 JANUARY</td>
<td>Visit to the National Portrait Gallery to see selected portraits of women from the period under review</td>
<td>Guided walk to see monuments to 19th century women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading:</td>
<td>Elizabeth Eger and Lucy Peltz, <em>Brilliant Women: 18th Century Bluestockings</em></td>
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<td>Chapters 1, The Blue Stocking Circle</td>
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<tr>
<th>SESSION 3</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>CLASSROOM DISCUSSION</th>
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<tr>
<td>TUE 23 JANUARY</td>
<td>‘The Angel of the House’: Domestic Ideology and women’s lives, 1780-1900</td>
<td>Who were Hannah More and Mary Wollstonecraft?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Visit to the Victoria and Albert</td>
<td>Imagine them having dinner and discussing ‘the two spheres’.</td>
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### Museum

**Reading:**
Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class*
Chapter 3, ‘The Nursery of Virtue’
Mary Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*, The Author’s (MW’s) Introduction and Chapter 1, The Rights and Involved Duties of Mankind Considered

### SESSION 4
**MON 29 JANUARY**

**Visit to the Guildhall Library to work on the research essay**

**Reading:**
Stella Tillyard, *Aristocrats: Caroline, Emily, Louisa and Sarah Lennox 1740-1832*
Chapter 1, Caroline and Emily

### SESSION 5
**TUE 30 JANUARY**

**Love and Marriage in 18th and 19th century England**

**Screening of Persuasion**

**Reading:**
Dorothy Thompson, *Queen Victoria: Gender and Power*
Chapter 4, Victoria and John Brown

### SESSION 6
**MON 5 FEBRUARY**

**Queen Victoria and Feminism ‘Eve and the New Jerusalem’**

**Screening of Suffragette**

**Reading:**
Sylvia Pankhurst, *The Suffragette Movement*
Book 4, Chapter 1

A.V.John (Ed), *The Men’s Share?: Masculinities, Male Support and Women’s Suffrage in Britain 1890-1920*
Chapter 4, Manliness and Militancy

### SESSION 7
**FRI 9 FEBRUARY**

**‘Rise Up Women!’the Militant Campaign for the Vote, 1903-1914**

Men’s involvement in Women’s Suffrage

**Guided walk round Westminster in the footsteps of the Suffragettes**

**Reading:**
Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*
Chapter 6, ‘When the Vision Dies’

Deborah Thom, *Nice Girls and Rude Girls: Women Workers in World War One*
Chapter 2, Women and Work in Wartime London
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<tr>
<th>Session 8</th>
<th>‘Keep the Home Fires Burning’: Women’s role in the First World War</th>
<th>Task: Audit of the evidence of women’s work in the Great War and 1939-1945</th>
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<tr>
<td>MON 12 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Visit to the Imperial War Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading:</strong></td>
<td>Dorothy Sheridan, <em>Wartime Women: A Mass Observation Anthology</em> Chapter 5, Evacuation</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 9</th>
<th>Screening of ‘Forgotten Voices of the Great War’</th>
<th>Task: Discussion of class audit of the evidence of women’s role as evidenced at the Imperial War Museum</th>
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<tr>
<td>TUE 13 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Women’s Lives in London, 1938-1945</td>
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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 Monday 19 FEBRUARY**

**Take Home Exam:** **Tuesday 20 FEBRUARY:** Students will be required to write one essay out of choice of three of the major areas studied in the course.

**Readings**

There is no core text-book, therefore students will be directed to chapters in the following books which will be available for study from the BU British Programmes Library and on Blackboard.


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


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


Additional reading may be found on Blackboard: [http://learn.bu.edu](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.


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


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


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


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


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


