



Boston University Study Abroad

London

London Architecture and Urbanism

CAS AH 381

Instructor Information

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the history and development of London and its buildings. It is aimed at a wide audience, not architectural specialists. The city, together with different styles of architecture and their origins, will be explored through a combination of lectures and walking tours.

Studying London's architecture and urbanism through lectures, seminars and the physical exploration of the city enables students to discover and experience architecture and to consider the enrichment it provides to our lives and the historical context in which architectural development takes place. Students will demonstrate knowledge about and appreciation for notable works of architecture in London, employing primary source materials and visual analysis to interrogate the history of key buildings and urban infrastructure and interrogate symbolism and meaning in architecture.

The course will foster the skills necessary to interpret creative works of architecture and familiarise students with key works of London's architecture over a broad historical period covering early modern London to the present day. Lectures and field trips help students develop Historical Consciousness and provide first-hand experience of Aesthetic Exploration.

Hub Outcomes (Course Objectives)

This teaching sets out to enable students to fulfil two learning outcomes: Aesthetic Exploration and Historical Consciousness.

1. Aesthetic Exploration

Aesthetic Exploration 1

Students will demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of notable works of London's architecture, including the cultural contexts in which those works were created, and be able to identify their ongoing significance and relevance.

Aesthetic Exploration 2

Students will demonstrate the reasoning skills and architectural vocabulary necessary to interpret historic and contemporary works of architecture.

Aesthetic Exploration 3

Students will produce evaluative and analytical essays that demonstrate understanding of the characteristics – such as genres, modes, styles and cultural history that shape architecture and urban development.

2. Historical Consciousness

Historical Consciousness 1

Students will create historical narratives, evaluate architectural achievements, urban change and analyse individual buildings based on historical evidence in order to construct historical arguments and locate architectural development of the city in the context of broader social and historical and cultural change.

Historical Consciousness 2

Students will demonstrate an ability to interpret primary visual source material (buildings, architectural ornament, furniture, sculptures and/or artworks) and engage with primary and secondary textual sources (archives, architectural drawings, architectural models, photographs, books and periodicals) using a range of interpretative skills and situating the material in its historical and cultural context so that students can confidently interpret works of architecture.

Historical Consciousness 3

Students will demonstrate knowledge of religious traditions, intellectual paradigms, forms of political organization, or socio-economic forces, and consider how these have changed over time and how they affect architectural change

Additional Course Objectives

Students will develop their ability to talk about and analyse different elements of buildings
Students will be able ‘read’ architectural drawings: plans, sections, elevations and 3D images
Students will refine their ability to assess primary and secondary sources at a research level
Students will be more aware of opportunities to study and work in London in the field of architecture and design.

Other Outcomes

This course is part of the BU Study Abroad London Internship Programme, and the BU College of Fine Arts and its specialised programmes.

It aims to enhance life skills, such as independent working, self-motivated study, personal self-confidence and good time keeping.

Approach to Learning

Experiencing London architecture first-hand with the support of lectures and field trips enables students to understand the evolution of the city and to visit a good number of its most important landmarks. The course format is class lectures followed by field trips, this creates a lively discussion-based, active-learning and experiential-learning course. Students will prepare for class by reading set texts, and this knowledge will be consolidated through class discussions about London architecture and lectures about the history of architecture. The four-hour teaching sessions include walking tours so students can experience different parts of London and engage with architecture from different periods.

Students will write an assessment demonstrating the newly acquired knowledge of London's architecture gained through personal observation and drawing upon historical knowledge from key texts and class lectures. At the end of the semester students will sit an examination in which they respond to pre-seen questions so they are able to undertake additional research to write critical and historical essays under examination conditions. They will demonstrate not only their understanding of the historical facts, but also their ability to interpret the past and articulate how architecture responds to economic, political and historical change, using their research skills, correct referencing and wide reading.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Important note for students on the Internship Programme

The rules governing Internship Programme students' UK visas are strict and require, as a condition of the student's presence in the United Kingdom, that the student participates fully in all classes and in the placement. If a student does not attend classes or his/her placement as required the student will be considered to be in breach of the visa and can be deported. As the sponsor of our students' visas, Boston University has the legal obligation to ensure that each student complies with visa requirements.

For that reason Boston University London Programmes requires full attendance in classes and placements. Any student who does not comply with this policy may be sent home from the program at the discretion of the programme directors, and will result in a forfeit of credit and program costs for part or all of the semester.

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.

Promptness and punctuality are expected. Students should be dressed for all weather walking. Laptops are not permitted. Camera phones are acceptable to photograph images on site visits only and must be switched off during class and when travelling to field trips. Please do not bring any travel luggage. Mobile phones and iPods must be switched off at all times including when travelling on the tube. Smoking is also not permitted.

Authorised Absence

Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorised 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:
<https://www.bu.edu/london/report-absence/>

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 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.

Grading

Grade Honour Points Usual %

A	4.0	93-100
A-	3.7	89-92
B+	3.3	85-88
B	3.0	81-84
B-	2.7	77-80
C+	2.3	73-76
C	2.0	69-72
C-	1.7	65-68
D	1.0	60-64
F	0.0	Unmarked

Grading Criteria ‘Incomplete’ or I grades are not permitted because of the obvious difficulty in making up missed work once the student has left the country. All work must be completed on time. We also do not allow ‘Audits’ (AU), ‘Withdrawals’ (W), or ‘Pass/Fail’ (P) grades. The grades reflect the quality of the work. Lecturers and students should use the following criteria for an understanding of what each grade means.

A This exceptional grade is assigned only to work that has persistently outstanding quality in both substance and presentation. The student must demonstrate a sustained capacity for independent thought and extensive study, producing rigorous and convincing analyses in well ordered prose.

A- Awarded to work that is clearly focused and analytical, and based on wide reading. The student must cover all the principal points of a question and systematically develop a persuasive overall thesis, allowing for one or two venial omissions or inapt expressions.

B+, B, B- This range of grades indicates that the student has shown some evidence of original thought and intellectual initiative. The student has cited sources beyond the class materials, and shown a degree of originality in perception and/or approach to the subject. The work will show thoughtful management of material, and a good grasp of the issues. The differences between a B+, a straight B and a B- may reflect poor presentation of the material, or mistakes in punctuation, spelling and grammar.

C+, C, C- Work in this grade range is satisfactory, but uninspiring. If the work is simply a recitation of the class materials or discussions, and shows no sign of genuine intellectual engagement with the issues, it cannot deserve a higher grade. Should an essay fail to provide a clear answer to the question as set, or argue a position coherently, the grade will fall within this range.

Quality of presentation can lift such work into the upper levels of this grade range. Work of this quality which is poorly presented, and riddled with errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation, will fall into the lower end of the range. To earn a C grade, the work must demonstrate that the student is familiar with the primary course material, be written well enough to be readily understood, be relevant to the assignment, and, of course, be the student’s own work except where properly cited.

D A marginal pass can be given where some but not all the elements of the course have been completed satisfactorily.

F The failing grade indicates the work is seriously flawed in one or more ways:

- Obvious lack of familiarity with the material
- So poorly written as to defy understanding
- So brief and insubstantial that it fails to properly address the subject
- Material presented is not relevant to the assignment

- Demonstrates evidence of plagiarism (see following section in Academic Conduct Code)

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/> * Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.

Schedule

Students should bring travel cards with them and be dressed for all weather walking.

(Sessions have previously included visits to the City of London, Southwark, Covent Garden, Westminster, Greenwich, Spitalfields, Canary Wharf and Camden).

The below is a lecture draft of course topics and themes and is subject to change, which is dependent on what buildings are open and whether certain areas or streets maybe closed. Before each course, the exact details of each syllabus are set in advance.

Lecture One

Meeting: Boston University

Lecture: Introduction to London (43AD – 1066AD)

Field Trip: City of London

Lecture Two

Meeting: Boston University

Lecture: Development of Westminster/ City Post-Great Fire (1066 AD – 1534 AD)

Field Trip: Westminster Abbey, or City of London

Lecture Three

Meeting: Boston University

Lecture: Renaissance London (1603 AD – 1650 AD)

Field Trip: Banqueting House and Covent Garden, or boat trip to Greenwich

Week Three or Four

Formative Assessment – quiz or self-directed activity representing 10% of the course mark will be undertaken and graded.

Lecture Four

Meeting: Boston University

Lecture: Eighteenth-Century London (1700 AD – 1800 AD)

Field Trip: Somerset House, or Spitalfields

Lecture Five

Meeting: Boston University

Lecture: Battle of the Styles (1800 AD – 1900 AD)

Field Trip: Parliament Square to Trafalgar Square

Lecture Six

Meeting: Boston University

Lecture: Development of London Transport and Suburbs (1863 – ongoing)

Field Trip: Bedford Park, Hampstead Garden Suburb, or Chelsea

Lecture Seven

Meeting: Boston University

Lecture: The Age of Optimism and International Modernism (1945 –1960)

Field trip: South Bank

Assignment Due

Lecture Eight

Meet at Boston University

Lecture: Brutalist London and Contemporary Architecture (1950s – present day)

Field Trip: The Barbican and the City

Examination Paper issued.

Lecture Nine

Meeting: Boston University

Lecture: The Commercial City

Field Trip: Canary Wharf (1980s – present day)

Lecture Ten

Meeting: Boston University

Lecture: Contemporary London and Revision Session

Field Trip: City to Spitalfields (from 2000)

***Contingency Class Date:** tbc

Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled.

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.

Assessment Methods

Formative Assessment: represents 10% of overall grade

- Formative assessment is informal, low-stakes assessment that is designed to run throughout the course. It provides an informal way of monitoring the students' learning progression. Around week 3 or 4, either a self-directed assessment activity, or a quiz (as described below) or a combination of both, will be graded – representing 10% of the overall course mark. The aim is to provide the student with an understanding of how they are performing on the course, as written feedback is provided.

Each lecture session is preceded by a general peer discussion, where students are encouraged to discuss different aspects of the course such as the periods in architectural history covered to date, or architectural visits that they have made. This provides a good way of monitoring learning outcomes and levels of architectural knowledge throughout the course.

Self-directed assessment in relation to tours of museums and architectural exhibitions, such as the Victoria and Albert Museum and the London Transport Museum, is encouraged. Students are provided with questionnaires to guide their visiting experience and test their

level of engagement with the exhibits. Questionnaires are submitted in class and help to promote peer discussion.

Quizzes test out the students' knowledge at different stages throughout the course, providing an experiential way of learning and promoting peer discussion. They are also designed to address any gaps in architectural knowledge, prior to the formal examination. Small prizes are sometimes given.

Summative Assessment: represents 90% of overall grade

- Summative assessment comprises the formal, graded assessment and will occur in the final 2 or 3 weeks of the course. Formal grading along with written feedback is provided in relation to both the essays and the exam questions.

The Coursework Essay Assignment represents 45% of the overall course assessment. Students are tasked with writing a 2,000-word essay that either describes a particular area of London, or maps their journey to work – describing memorable architectural elements encountered on the way. The essay provides an opportunity for students to express themselves both at a literary level and at a visual level, through sketches, maps, illustrations and photographic records. Students are encouraged to achieve a balance between self-expression, through creative writing that takes the reader on a visit to their chosen area of London, and a demonstration of architectural knowledge and background research, through facts figures and critical use of literary sources. Students are encouraged to describe the built environment from small architectural details, to landmarks and buildings, and to street planning and layout.

The Exam represents 45% of the overall course assessment. The format is a seen paper that is handed out in a revision session a week before the exam, which provides a useful way of addressing any gaps in architectural knowledge and encourages peer discussion. Students have a two-hour exam session to write their answers, selected from a number of option questions. The exam response should display evidence of critical thinking, architectural knowledge and background research.

Course work assignment

Students are required to write an eight-page, (2,000-word) double-spaced academic (2,000-word) double-spaced paper- previous topics have included: Mapping Your Journey.

This piece of work counts for 45% of the overall mark.

The examination is the other 45%.

The essay should be referenced and should consider the literature and published sources about the individual (books, periodicals and websites).

Essays should be 2,000 words in length and illustrated using photographs, designs, plans and/or drawings. Please make sure that all illustrations are clearly labelled and given full captions

Hand in Week 7

The Exam

Exam Paper: The 2 hour exam paper consists of 1 or 2 questions weighted at 40% and is offered from a list of question options, which will be handed out in the session before the exam.

Readings

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

Key Source Book:

Weinreb, Ben and Hibbert, Christopher. *The London Encyclopaedia*. (MacMillan, 1983).

Reading List

- Akroyd, Peter. *London: a biography* by Peter Ackroyd (Chatto and Windus, 2000).
- Allison, Ken (2003 [1994]) *London's Contemporary Architecture*, Architectural Press.
- Barker, Felix and Hyde, Ralph. *London as it might have been*. (John Murray, 1982).
- Borden, Iain, Kerr, Joe, Pivario, Alicia and Rendell, Jane (Editors). *Strangely Familiar*, narratives of architecture in the city (Routledge, London and New York, 1996).
- London A-Z (Geographer's A-Z Map Company Limited, current edition).
- Deyan, Sudjic and Jones, Helen. *Architecture and Democracy*. (Laurence King, 2001).
- Donnellan, Caroline (2018) *Towards Tate Modern: Public Policy Private Vision*, Routledge.
- Evenden, Helen. *Moving Forward*, new directions in transport design. V&A Publications 2007.
- Glancey, Jonathan. *London bread and circuses*. (Verso, 2001).
- Jones, Edward & Woodward, Christopher (2000 [1983]) *A Guide to the Architecture of London*, Seven Dials.
- Jencks, Charles, *The Story of Post-Modernism: Five Decades of Architecture*, 2011
- Kerr, Joe and Andrew Gibson. *London From Punk to Blair*. (Reakiton, 2002).
- Mumford, Lewis. *The Culture of Cities*. (Secker and Warburg, 1940).
- Powell, Kenneth (2003 [2001]) *New London Architecture*, Merrell Publishers.
- Powell, Ken. *The Jubilee Line Extension*. (Laurence King, reprinted 2001).
- Rogers, Richard & Fisher, Mark (1992) *A New London*, Penguin Books.
- Saunders, Ann. *The Art and Architecture of London*, an illustrated guide. (Phaidon, 1988).
- Weinreb, Ben and Hibbert, Christopher. *The London Encyclopaedia*. (MacMillan, 1983).
- Weinreb, Matthew. *London Architecture*, features and facades. (Phaidon, 1993).

Terms and Conditions

Students are expected to attend each session and to be punctual. Written papers must be delivered before agreed deadline; failure to hand in the paper will result in deducted marks. Time will be made available in each session for students to raise questions, etc. Students should raise any problems with the teaching staff regarding the availability of reading material (all of which should be in the library). Note: Please turn off all mobile phones in class; laptops can only be used for note-taking in exceptional circumstances and only after permission has been given by faculty.