BIOGRAPHY OF LONDON

Instructor Name: Katy Layton-Jones
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Contact Hrs: 40
Language of Instruction: English

LONDON, UK

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course proceeds chronologically through the history of London, from its Roman foundations to the impact of the Blitz and the ‘Swinging Sixties’. Using an array of primary and secondary sources, ranging from diaries to court proceedings, maps, newspaper journalism and paintings, we will trace the physical, social, cultural and political evolution of this historic city and the people who have populated it.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students who successfully complete this course will:
- Know the main social and political aspects and chronology of London’s history.
- Have developed an understanding of how London, its people and government have responded to both internal and external pressures.
- Have demonstrated knowledge, analytical skills, and communication through essays, an exam and a short project.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY
The course combines online class sessions, guest speakers, research projects and Oxbridge-style tutorials. All rules applicable in a classroom also apply online: no smoking or eating and no unauthorized mobile phone use.

METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)
Midterm: Quiz and research task.

Final Exam: The final exam is a standard essay-style take home paper. You will be given 12 questions to choose from and you will answer 2. The exam is intended to give you the opportunity to focus on the period of London’s past that interests you the most.

Project - London Real and Imagined:
London is one of the most represented cities in the world. Images, texts, maps and films document its changing appearance and character. However, as with any subject, the image that we are presented with is often manipulated, corrupted and semi-fictionalized. Focusing on one fictional representation of London, each student is to produce a 3-5 page assignment exploring the way in which the source they have chosen has contributed to the reputation of the real city. Sources chosen might include a short Sherlock Holmes story, The Picture of Dorian Gray (book or film), Whistler’s views of the Thames etc. We can discuss various options in tutorials, but please ensure that the source is of academic quality, i.e. no Disney films or overly-satirical popular cartoons etc. They must also be historical, so nothing set/focused upon a post-1990 subject. You should begin this project at the earliest possible date as it requires some thought.

Basis of Course Grade:
Class participation* 20%
Midterm 20%
Real and Imagined 30%
Final exam 30%

* It is assumed that a student will be on time for all classes. Absences and persistent lateness will be noted and the final grade reduced accordingly. Discretion may be exercised in the case of illness.

Set texts:
www.layersoflondon.org

COURSE OUTLINE

Online class 2 hours
Introduction to Course and ‘Londinium – the birth of a city’
Reading:
‘Boudicca sacks Londinium’ and ‘The Romans in London’ in Lewis.

Online class 2 hours
Early London: the language of power in the landscape.
Reading:
‘Medieval London 1270-1300’ https://www.layersoflondon.org/map?layer=medieval-london-1270-1300&layers=true
‘Tudor Map 1520’ https://www.layersoflondon.org/map?layer=tudor-map-1520&layers=true
Online class 2 hours
Early Modern London: Plague, fire and rebirth
Reading:
‘Restoration’ in Wilson.

Guest lecture 2 hours (1.5 hour guest lecture plus 30 min seminar with tutor)
Early Modern Theatre in London life.
Prof. Michael Punter

Tutorial sessions 3x1 hour
Primary source response to be set for discussion

Online class 2 hours + midterm quiz and research task (2 hours allocated)
Georgian London Part 1: Pleasure and Leisure
Reading:
‘Georgian’ in Wilson.
‘Ranelagh Pleasure Gardens’ in Lewis.
Penelope Corfield, Vauxhall and the Invention of the Urban Pleasure Gardens (2008).

Georgian London Part 2: Vice and Virtue
Reading:
‘The Industrial Revolution and the Metropolis of Paul Nash’ in Wilson.
‘The rage for building’, ‘Cockfighting’ and ‘Hanging at Tyburn’ in Lewis.
‘Horwood Map 1799’ https://www.layersoflondon.org/map?layer=horwood-1799&layers=true

Tutorial sessions 3x1 hour
Primary source response to be set for discussion

LONDON London: Biography of a City (Layton-Jones) – Pre-Freshman 2019
Online class 2 hours
Victorian London Part 1: Dirt, Disease and Poverty
Reading:
‘Victorian London’ in Wilson
‘Jon Snow’s Data Journalism’ available at:
‘Charles Booth’s Poverty Map’ https://www.layersoflondon.org/map?layer=charles-booth-s-poverty-map-1886-1903&layers=true

Tutorial sessions 3x1 hour
Primary source to be set for discussion: https://booth.lse.ac.uk/notebooks

Online class 2 hours
Victorian London Part 2: Empire and Exhibitions
Reading:
‘Visit to the Great Exhibition’ in Lewis.
‘Building the Museum’ https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/building-the-museum

Tutorial sessions 3x1 hour
Primary source to be set for discussion

Online class 2 hours
World Wars and Legacy
Reading:
‘Children Evacuated’ thru ‘VE Day’ in Lewis.
‘Bombing maps’ https://www.layersoflondon.org/map?record=8104
‘Churchill and the Cabinet War Rooms’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4RTl3p5k04

Tutorial sessions 3x1 hour
Primary source to be set for discussion
Online class 2 hours
Post-war London and the ‘Swinging 60s’ and revision session
Reading:
‘Post-war’ in Wilson.
‘Empire Windrush’, ‘Festival of Britain’ and ‘The Sixties’ in Lewis.

Final exam 3 hours TAKE HOME EXAM.

Real and Imagined assignment due