

SYLLABUS

GLS 100 –SPRING 2015

LONDON: A GLOBAL CITY

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Course Description

GLS 100 is a 3 credit, Q-3 (third quarter) exploration of the history, geography, and culture of one of the world's great cities. Classes at Oswego will be online for 7 weeks. The first and last classes (Jan. 28 & Mar 11) will offer Skype in a classroom setting (W 4:30-5:30), with the remainder of the classes via live chat (W 4:30-5:30) and e-mail. **Check that the class dates and times fit your schedule before enrolling or contact the instructor for exceptions.** The remainder of the class will consist of, and culminate in, an intensive one-week visit to London, England (March 14-21). Classes overseas will be held at venues as detailed in the itinerary.

Course Objectives

- Promote an understanding of other cultures.
- Gain an understanding of London prior to visiting.
- Experience first-hand the city referred to in many English, History, Art, & Theater courses.
- Introduce the concept of study abroad and learn about opportunities for semester or year-long programs through the Office of International Education & Programs.

Evaluation

Grades will appear on your spring semester grade report (in May) and will be based upon:

- Paper (30 points) 7-8 page paper, selected from a list provided by, or negotiated with, the instructor, is due at the last class in Oswego. Late papers will be accepted until departure but at a reduced grade. Topics must be confirmed with the instructor for approval no later than four weeks before the paper is due. Further paper guidelines will be provided in class.
- Journal (30 points) - information gathered and observed while abroad is due (typed and submitted electronically to the instructor) no later than 4:30 p.m. on the next Monday two weeks after the class returns (April 6). You will receive further details about what is/ is not acceptable in the final version of your journal. Journals should document and describe academic pursuits while abroad (i.e. tying in site visits with what we learned in class AND using free time for ADDITIONAL museum or historic site visits, plays, performances, or pursuits related to your major.)
- Class Participation (20 points) – both online and in-person on the trip. To receive full credit, students should demonstrate that they have completed assigned readings.

- On Your Own Reports (20 points) – students will be required to complete two brief worksheets summarizing sites visited in London outside of class, along with photographs of themselves at the sites. Sites must be chosen prior to departing Oswego and approved by the instructor (Cultural, Historic, Sporting, etc.). Suggestions will be provided. These must be submitted electronically by April 6 at 4:30 pm.

Letter grades will be assigned based upon the final points as follows:

A 92-100	B 80-83	C 65-72	D 55-58
A- 88-91	B- 77-79	C- 62-64	D- 51-54
B+ 84-87	C+ 73-76	D+ 59-61	E 50 or less

Half points are rounded up to the next whole number.

Writing

Written work will employ correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar and will be graded accordingly. The MLA handbook for writers of research papers (7th edition, 2009) is the preferred guide for papers and references for this class. Students are strongly encouraged to check spelling and grammar on all work prior to submission.

Attendance Policy

Virtual/physical attendance in class at Oswego is required. Documented medical emergencies (for you or a member of your immediate family), absences documented through the Student Advisement Center (501 Culkin 312-2240), or prior documented participation in college-sanctioned events will be excused. The instructor will make every effort to provide alternative times for those who must miss a scheduled session. Students who miss class despite this will be penalized. A student who misses more than 3 classes will be dropped from the course. If this occurs after the official deadline for dropping courses the student may receive an E.

Group activities (classes) while in London are **mandatory**. For a list of them, see the itinerary. Substantial time will be allowed, and is required, for you to explore on your own. You are advised that staying up all night clubbing is not a valid excuse for missing “class” in London. Class time is **not** a “Break or Vacation” but an “open classroom” experience. The trip is scheduled when college is not in session so as to not conflict with your other academic obligations. Failure to participate in scheduled group activities from beginning to end will be considered as skipping class and will reduce your grade. If you are not with me at the beginning and end of the class session, wherever we end up, you will be considered absent for the entire class. Students who fall ill while abroad and are not hospitalized will be required to remain in the official hotel. While what you do with your free time outside of class is your business (as long as it is not in violation of the law and college policies), students **must** spend the night in the official hotel. Failure to do all of the above, or leaving Greater London without prior approval will result in a grade of “E”. **ANY exceptions must be requested from the instructor by the last class PRIOR to departing the U.S.**

Travel Arrangements

The Office of International Education & Programs will handle all travel arrangements from Syracuse to our return to that airport. Contact Mary Kerr at 312-2118 (mary.kerr@oswego.edu) with any questions.

Passports & Paperwork

YOU are responsible for obtaining a passport. Failure to do so can, and has, resulted in forfeiting the program fee and being dropped from class. You should possess, or begin the process to obtain, a passport (http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html) **at the time of registration**. With the trip less than 8 weeks after the start of class, **students will be expected to have a valid passport in hand or process by the first class in January. You must submit all required paperwork to the Office of International Education & Programs before you will receive your airline e-ticket.**

Program Fee

The Office of International Education & Programs will assess a “program fee” to cover, among other things, international airfare from New York, transportation upon arrival and departure in London, breakfasts and lodging. You will receive complete details about what this fee does and does not cover. **The “program fee” must be paid at the time indicated on the brochure. Those who require passports should request them at the time of registration or before. Withdrawal from class is no guarantee of a refund of the program fee, which is subject to rules you will receive from the Office of International Education & Programs.**

Textbook: NONE (selected readings and videos will be placed on reserve in Penfield Library and on the class website)

Recommended Readings (available in Penfield Library)

Ackroyd, Peter. *London: The Biography*. New York: Anchor Books, 2003

Boru, Sean. *A Historie of London and Londoners: A Romp Through The Capital*. Stroud, England: History Press, 2009.

Inwood, Stephen. *A History of London*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 2000.

Porter, Roy. *London: A Social History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Weinreb, Ben and Christopher Hibbert, eds. *The London Encyclopaedia*. Bethesda, MD: Adler & Adler, 1986.

Wilson, A.N. *London: A History*. New York: Modern Library, 2004. (also in paperback-2006)

Yapp, Nick and Rupert Tenison. *London: The secrets and the splendour*. Cologne: Konemann, 1999.