



AH341 THE ARCHITECTURE OF LONDON: 1600-PRESENT DAY
IES Abroad London

DESCRIPTION:

The course provides a general introduction to the architecture of London from the 17th century to the present day. It examines the transformation of the city from a medieval to a recognizably modern metropolis; a change accelerated by the Great Fire of 1666. Special notice is given to the social and political changes in the periods studied and their impact on architectural developments. The course is based predominantly on field trips to relevant districts and buildings in London, and combines classroom lectures with field study activities.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures (including PowerPoint projections and video sequences),
- Seminar sessions
- Guided visits and tours to relevant museums and specific buildings throughout London (dating from c.1600 to the 21st century)
- Informal group discussions are encouraged during field trips and when visiting buildings.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation -10%
- Written mid-term exam - 20%
- Research report of 1500 words on a specific London building - 30%
- Research essay of 2500 words - 40%

There are two research assignments in this course. First, students will be required to study, research and write a report about a specific London building during the semester which will utilise archival and library sources; and second, to undertake a research essay on a broader based architectural theme.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Develop a good understanding of the historical and architectural development of London from 1600 to the present day and understand the role of architecture in shaping the urban environment.
- Identify and explain significant developments in the architectural history of London and be able to discuss the main figures and influences in English architecture from the 17th century to the present.
- Identify and demonstrate familiarity with some of the important architectural landmarks of London.
- Describe and analyse architectural works with appropriate terminology.



ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular class attendance is mandatory. Irregular attendance may result in a lower grade in the course, and/or disciplinary action. The IES Abroad London class attendance policy does not allow for unexcused absences, and grades will be docked one-half letter grade for each such absence. Rare exceptions will be made for the following reasons:

- The student is too sick to attend class. In this instance, the student must call the IES Abroad Centre before class to notify any of the IES Abroad staff. It is not sufficient either to email, send a message with a friend or call the Centre after the class has started.
- A serious illness or death in the immediate family requiring a student to travel home. This requires written approval from the Centre Director before departure.

Arriving more than 10 minutes late to class may count as an unexcused absence. Immigration laws in the UK are extremely strict, and we jeopardize our legal status in hosting students who do not regularly attend class. Students who do not attend class regularly will be reported to the appropriate officials and risk dismissal from the program and deportation from the UK. If a student incurs absences representing 25% of the total class hours, they will be contacted by the Academic Programme Manager (APM) and Centre Director (CD). If these absences are made up exclusively of unexcused non-attendance, this will trigger a disciplinary review. If these absences are made up of excused non-attendance, a meeting will be held to discuss the underlying reasons for lack of attendance, and to discuss ways it can be maintained for the duration of the term. If the 25% threshold is reached due to a mixture of excused and unexcused absences, students will also be asked to attend a meeting to discuss.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments (for bibliographical details, see below)
1	<p>Introduction to London’s Architecture</p> <p>Lecture/seminar session: Overview of course. We will visit the Building Centre, Store Street, to examine the map-model of London after a session in the British Museum to see the architecture-related displays including the Parthenon, as well as the architecture of the museum itself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKellar, <i>The Birth of Modern London</i>, introduction and ch. 1 (pp. 1-37). • Porter, <i>London - A Social History</i>, introduction (pp. 1-10). • Summerson, <i>Architecture in Britain</i>, introduction, ch. 1. • Summerson, <i>The Classical Language of Architecture</i>, ‘The Essentials of Classicism’, ch. 1 (pp. 7-12).
2	<p>Barbican to Spitalfields</p> <p>Visit to the Museum of London to explore the early growth of London followed by a walk to understand how significant events, such as the second world war and the Great Fire of 1666, impacted on the fabric and layout of the City of London.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bold & Hinchcliffe, <i>Discovering London’s Buildings</i>, ‘Walk 7: Barbican to Boundary Street’ (pp. 204-208). • Porter, <i>The Social History of London</i>, ‘Formation to Reformation’, ‘Tudor London’, ‘War, Plague and Fire’, chs. 2-4 (pp. 11-92).
3	<p>Inigo Jones and Renaissance London</p> <p>Lecture session looking at London in the 17th century, the developments after the Great Fire and the work of architects, Inigo Jones, Christopher Wren and Nicholas Hawksmoor. A short walk to look at Covent Garden and the Banqueting House, Whitehall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summerson, <i>Architecture in Britain</i>, chs. 7 and 8, ‘Inigo Jones at the Court of James I’ and ‘The Surveyorship of Inigo Jones’ (pp. 103-128). • Summerson, <i>Georgian London</i>, ch. 2 ‘Foundation Stones: Taste’ (pp. 10-18) and ch. 4 ‘The Mercantile Stronghold’ (pp. 36-48)

4	<p>Royal and Maritime Greenwich Visit to Greenwich on the south bank of the Thames, including the interior of Inigo Jones’s Queen’s House and Christopher Wren’s former Royal Hospital for Seamen, followed by a short walk in Greenwich Park and town centre.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summerson, <i>Architecture in Britain</i>, chs. 17-18, ‘English Baroque: Hawksmoor, Vanbrugh, Archer’ and ‘The Royal Works: 1702-26’ (pp. 251-277). • Bold & Hinchcliffe, <i>Discovering London’s Buildings</i>, ‘Walk 12: Greenwich’ (pp. 226-230).
5	<p>The City of London A visit to some of the City Churches by Sir Christopher Wren and Nicholas Hawksmoor; the City markets and exchanges; taking in the new commercial buildings in the ‘square mile’, including the Gherkin, the Walkie Talkie and the Cheesegrater.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summerson, <i>Architecture in Britain</i>, ch. 13, ‘The Rebuilding of London: The City Churches’ (pp. 187-202). • Bold & Hinchcliffe, <i>Discovering London’s Buildings</i>, ch. 7, ‘London churches’ (pp. 134-150), and ‘Walk 1: The City’, (pp.172-177).
6	<p>The West End Lecture session looking at the growth of London in the Georgian and Victorian periods, with a focus on the residential developments in the west end. A walk through selected West End squares to the magnificent 19th century, All Saints Church in Margaret Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summerson, <i>Georgian London</i>, ch. 5, ‘The London House and its Builders’ (pp. 49-68). • Bold & Hinchcliffe, <i>Discovering London’s Buildings</i>, ch.2, ‘The London House’ (pp. 18-57). • Summerson, <i>Architecture in Britain</i>, ch. 23, ‘The house and the street in the eighteenth century’ (pp. 354-365).
7	<p>Islington – An Inner London Suburb A visit to Islington and Clerkenwell looking at the growth of an inner London suburb from the 17th century to 20th century, including the provision of public housing in the 19th and 20th centuries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summerson, <i>Georgian London</i>, ch. 9, ‘The Spirit and Practice of Improvement’ (pp. 119-130) • Bold & Hinchcliffe, <i>Discovering London’s Buildings</i>, ‘Walk 8, Islington’ (pp. 208-213).
8	<p>London’s Railway Termini An exploration of the two major stations, King’s Cross and St Pancras and their impact on the surrounding area, and its later development. Includes a walk through the new developments at King’s Cross and a look at the Grade I listed British Library building.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 1 due • Sheppard, <i>London - A History</i>, ch. 17, ‘Structures of the Modern Metropolis’ (pp. 264-288) and ch. 20, ‘The Inter-war Years 1914-1939’ (pp. 332-337). • Porter, <i>London - A Social History</i>, ch. 13, ‘“A Fungus-Like Growth”: Expansion 1890-1945’ (pp. 306-325). • Bold & Hinchcliffe, <i>Discovering London’s Buildings</i>, ch. 4, ‘Servicing London’ (pp. 76-96).
9	<p>Pleasure and Leisure – A Walk through Albertopolis A visit to the Museums area of South Kensington including the architecture of two major museums, The Natural History Museum and the V & A, followed by a walking tour of ‘Albertopolis’, the education and entertainment quarter of South Kensington.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pevsner and Cherry, <i>London 3: North West</i> (pp. 496-499). • Dixon and Muthesius, <i>Victorian Architecture</i>, ‘Eclecticism at South Kensington’ (sub-section of ch. 5, p. 172).

10	<p>Trafalgar to Victoria: the heart of Government Visit to the public architecture of Westminster from Trafalgar Square and along Whitehall, looking at Horse Guards, the Houses of Parliament, Smith Square and Westminster Cathedral.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summerson, <i>Georgian London</i>, ch. 8, 'Public Buildings and Private Palaces under George II' (pp. 104-118) • Bold & Hinchcliffe, ch. 6, 'Capital London' (pp. 115-133), and 'Walk 2, Westminster and Whitehall' (pp. 178-184).
11	<p>The Festival of Britain and the development of the South Bank A linear walk from the London Eye to London Bridge looking at the varied architecture of the South Bank. Includes visits to the Royal Festival Hall, the National Theatre, Tate Modern and Borough Market.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 2 due • Pevsner and Cherry, <i>London 2: South</i> (pp. 345–365). • Bold & Hinchcliffe, 'Walk 5, The South Bank' (pp. 195-199).
12	<p>Portland Place to Camden A varied walk, beginning with two twentieth-century masterpieces, the RIBA building and the Royal College of Physicians Building – both interior visits. Then a walk through Regents Park to see the Nash Terraces of the 19th Century before heading to see the area of Camden, a lively, bustling market area that has been re-generated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summerson, <i>Georgian London</i>, ch. 13, 'The Plans and Elevations of John Nash' (pp. 196-211).

REQUIRED READINGS:

See the readings specified above.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Allinson, Ken, *London's Contemporary Architecture - A Visitor's Guide*, 3rd edition, Architectural Press, 2003 [ISBN 0-7506-5848-7]. Useful for modern buildings.
- Bold, John and Hinchcliffe, Tanis; *Discovering London's Buildings*, Francis Lincoln Publishing, 2009, [ISBN 978-0-7112-2918-1]. Based on a series of walks.
- Dixon, Roger and Muthesius, Stefan, *Victorian Architecture*, Thames & Hudson, 1987 [ISBN 0-500-20160-9]. A reference book crammed with details but also a good survey of the period.
- Foxell, Simon, *Mapping London: Making sense of the City*, Black Dog, 2007 [ISBN 0-978-906155-070]. A great book to browse.
- Halliday, Stephen, *Making the Metropolis, creators of Victoria's London*, Breedon Books, 2003 [ISBN 1-8593-357-8]: good summary of the leading figures responsible for the huge changes in 19th century London
- Inwood, Steven, *A History of London*, Macmillan 1998 [ISBN 0-333-67153-8]. A general history similar to Roy Porter.
- Jones, Edward and Woodward, Christopher, *A guide to the Architecture of London*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2009 [ISBN 0-978-0-297-85516-3]. Entries for individual buildings – great for self-guided exploration.
- McKellar, Elizabeth, *The Birth of Modern London: the development and design of the city, 1600-1720*, Manchester University Press, 1999 [ISBN 0-7190-4076-0]. A specialist historical investigation of house building in the period 1660-1700.
- Pevsner, Nikolaus and others, *The Buildings of England series*, Yale University Press, 1971-2019. London is covered in six of the current 51 volumes (1983-2005). Good general introductions and building-by-building facts and comments.
- Porter, Roy; *London - A Social History*, Penguin, 2000, [ISBN 0-14-0242-38-4]. An approachable general history.
- Sheppard, Francis, *London - A History*, Oxford University Press 2000, [ISBN 0-19-822922-4]. Another good general history with excellent sections on the leasehold system and other architectural matters.
- Summerson, John; *Architecture in Britain 1530-1830*, Yale University Press, 1993, [ISBN 0-300-05886-1]. Not only about London, but an excellent background to the styles and significant designers of this period.



- Summerson, John, *The Classical Language of Architecture*, Thames and Hudson, 1980 [ISBN 0-500-20177-3]. The best short guide to the dominant style in London in the period we are studying.
- Summerson, John, *Georgian London*, rev. edn. Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, 2003 [ISBN 10-0500201773]. A great read for getting an overview of the period.
- Sutcliffe, Anthony, *London: an Architectural History*, Yale New Haven Press, 2006 [ISBN 0300110065]. A good general survey.

INFORMATION SOURCES

RIBA Library: Look at the online catalogue for the RIBA (Library of the Royal Institute of British Architects) at [www. architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com) There will probably be material for you there. Anyone can visit (it is near Oxford Circus) you just need a photo ID. The library is open: Tuesday (10.00 am to 8.00 pm), Wednesday and Friday (10.00 am to 5.00 pm) and Saturday (10.00 to 1.00 pm). It is especially useful for modern buildings; architectural journals of all dates and architect related information

Senate House Library: online and journal sources are very good. Also has parliamentary papers and good history library. Access to Dictionary of National Biography (DNB) online and online newspapers (for reports on recent buildings and 19th century buildings) It also has a very good art and architecture books and journals

Guildhall Library and London Metropolitan Archives: For material located in the City of London and elsewhere in London. Good online catalogue for research purposes

Local History Libraries and Archives: each London borough has an archive and library where you can look at maps, pictures, old photos, deeds and cuttings about buildings in the area. Check what borough your building is in and look up the library. All have different opening times and days that they are open but all will have something to help you. Particularly good ones are Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Richmond, Hackney and Camden

OTHER RESOURCES: ONLINE

- English Heritage Survey of London. A series of detailed books begun in 1900 and still running. All but the most recent volumes are online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue.aspx?gid=74>. You can browse or search. The early ones better for pictures than text, but after the 1960s, they become in-depth investigations with fascinating incidental information. Also available in hard copy in reference libraries.
- www.architecture.com website for the RIBA. You can access their online catalogue and the site has a wealth of information on architecture generally.
- www.ribapix.com This is an image database of historic architecture and if you register with the site, you can download low res images for free.
- [www. collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk) This is an image database of historic images of London and again if you register with the site you can download low res images for free.