***NOTE: This is a SAMPLE syllabus/itinerary and may not be the most up-to-date version. Please contact the faculty leader of this course for more recent information.***

**LIT 3900: Mad Men (and Women) of British Literature**
May 2017 Intersession Study Abroad

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

*LIT 3900: Mad Men (and Women) of British Lit* is a literature survey course that focuses on classic novellas and plays that characterize London as a beautiful yet maddening city. We'll study the history of mentally unbalanced literary characters in 'The Big Smoke' and through textual discussion, site visits around London, and short literary analysis papers, we'll chronicle these characters' descents into madness. This literature spans nearly 400 years of 'madness,' featuring an asylum of famous iconic characters whose plights in London have affected the history of the city itself, as well as the literary movements of which they were a part. These movements include the Elizabethan Age, the Victorian Era, Gothic Lit, and Postmodernism; by studying these fictions and 'factions,' we will discuss their creative forms, techniques, styles, genres, thematic and social issues, and subtle elements of autobiography, as well as investigate why reading about monsters, serial killers, fantasists, temptresses, stalkers, and evildoers is such a guilty pleasure. Moreover, each literary work that we'll study will be paired with trips around London, to specific historical and cultural sites that are referenced in the stories.

## THE TRIP

For two weeks, we will travel the city of London, visiting the *many* historical sites where this literature took place. Some of these locations range from Whitechapel Market, the Strand, and Fleet Street (Jack the Ripper's scenes of crime); Sherlock Holmes's house on Baker Street, near Regent's Park, Camden Town, and Primrose Hill; Charles Dickens's home in Bloomsbury; the museum and dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, in 'The City'; the Tower of London, for the evening Twilight Tour; the reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London; Soho, Covent Garden, Piccadilly Circus, and Trafalgar Square; two West End plays; pub lunches and British suppers; among quite a few other quintessential literary and historical spots. We'll also take daytrips to Shakespeare's home in Stratford; medieval Warwick Castle; the famous town of Oxford and its prestigious University; and the Warner Brothers Studio for the *Harry Potter* experience.

As a class, we will discuss the important literary connections of these London locales—some famous, some lesser-known—and how travel/place itself enhances British literature. Our discussion content, and your London Travel Journal, will both be integral for both your mini 'Event' papers as well as your final paper.

## GRADING SYSTEM:

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|---|---|
| Travel Journal of London journey | 20% |
| Participation in literature discussions | 15% |
| 'Event' papers in conjunction with texts (i.e. for sites we visit) | 50% |
| Final paper: Literary analysis w/ integrated travel experience | 15% |

**THE LITERATURE**

**Required Texts:**

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|---|---|---|
| Charles Dickens | *A Christmas Carol* (1843) | ISBN-10: 1612931014 |
| Sir Arthur C. Doyle | *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1891) (selected stories) | ISBN-10: 0199536953 |
| Ian McEwan | *Enduring Love* (1997) | ISBN-10: 0385494149 |
| William Shakespeare | *Macbeth* (1603) | ISBN-10: 1613821220 |
| Robert L. Stevenson | *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886) | ISBN-10: 0199536228 |
| Oscar Wilde | *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890) | ISBN-10: 1612930441 |
| TBD | (Dependent upon what theater we attend) | |

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Respond to literary and historical texts analytically, and present arguments and interpretations which are derived, specifically, from both students' own ideas and from our class discussion.
- Develop strategies for constructive criticism and analytical debate of these texts and their connections to the locations in London to which we travel.
- Become familiar with the fundamental forms and expectations of the genres of novella, historical novel, and drama.
- Compose a fully developed analytical travel notebook of unique, individualized responses to each literary text we study and the sites we see.
- Be able to differentiate works from different literary periods and comment on these differences in style, form, and rhetorical purpose.
- Identify works of literature through analyses of style, plot, voice, theme, and character.
- Write clear, sharp prose, free of grammatical and sentence structure errors, without the employment of clichés.
- Use writing and literary discussion as processes of discovery, promoting habits of critical thinking and aesthetic understandings of language and its written uses.

**TRIP SCHEDULE:**

*Note: Some of this is tentative, dependent upon weather, transportation, etc. Likewise, there will be some additional (FREE!) outings added to this schedule in conjunction with the literature and history we're studying.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mon, May 15 | Time TBA | (Evening flight) Depart for London |
| Tue, May 16 | Time TBA | (Morning) Arrival in London |
| | Time TBA | Trip: London Eye |
| | Time TBA | Trip: Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese |

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| | | (for a 'Welcome to London' pub supper) |
| Wed, May 17 | Time TBA<br>2PM | Class: Discuss *Macbeth*<br>Shakespeare's Globe Theatre |
| Thu, May 18 | Time TBA<br>Time TBA<br>7:30PM | Class: Discuss *Macbeth*<br>Trip: British Library<br>Theatre: TBD |
| Fri, May 19 | 8AM | Day Trip: Warwick Castle, Stratford-upon-Avon, Oxford |
| Sat, May 20 | Time TBA<br>2PM<br>Time TBA | Class: Discuss *A Christmas Carol*<br>Trip: Charles Dickens's House<br>Trip: Covent Garden |
| Sun, May 21 | Time TBA<br>Time TBA<br>Time TBA | Class: Discuss *Sherlock Holmes*<br>Trip: Sherlock Holmes's House at Baker Street<br>Trip: Regent's Park / Primrose Hill / Camden Town |
| Mon, May 22 | Time TBA<br>Time TBA<br>Time TBA | Class: Discuss *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*<br>Trip: St. Paul's Cathedral<br>Trip: Jack the Ripper Walking Tour |
| Tue, May 23 | Time TBA<br>Time TBA<br>7:30PM | Class: Discuss *A Picture of Dorian Gray*<br>Trip: National Portrait Gallery<br>Theatre: TBD |
| Wed, May 24 | Time TBA<br>Time TBA<br>Time TBA | Class: Discuss *A Picture of Dorian Gray*<br>Trip: Tower Bridge tour<br>Trip: Tower of London tour |
| Thu, May 25 | Free Day! | |
| Fri, May 26 | Time TBA<br>Time TBA | Class: *Discuss Enduring Love*<br>Day Trip: Warner Bros Studios—*Harry Potter* tour |
| Sat, May 27 | Time TBA<br>Time TBA | Class: Discuss *Enduring Love*<br>Trip: Final Group outing/dinner/TBD |
| Sun, May 28 | Time TBD | Return flight to Boston |

## COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES / POLICIES

**Paper submission**

For this class abroad, all papers will be submitted via email. Please submit your papers as MS Word Docs, attached to your (near-)daily emails. This way, your professor can offer comments and grade your papers digitally, since none of us will have printers.

**Due Dates**
Papers *must* be on time. Late papers will lose one full letter grade for every class period late. For example, if you submit a B quality paper two classes after its deadline, you will receive an automatic D for that paper.

**Plagiarism…**
…is *absolutely* not tolerated. *Write for yourself. Think for yourself.* If you hand in a paper with your name on it, the text of the paper must be 100% your own work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated by the university, your professor, or your peers.

**Attendance…**
…is mandatory. If you do not attend classes, you will have absolutely no idea what's going on. As specified in the Travel Tips: since this course is only two weeks, one absence equals three. If you are absent from events and/or class times more than once, your grade will decrease one (1) letter grade per extra absence.

**Participation…**
…is equally mandatory (and part of your grade). The understanding of literature, journalistic essays, and nonfiction composition is a conversational process through the exchange of ideas and peer review. Effective class participation will improve your skills as a communicator and critical thinker, thus improving your skills as a writer. In order to write critically and analytically, you must *first* be able to think and speak as such. *You must actually speak.* If you remain silent by choice or generally unresponsive for the entire course, it appears that you have not considered, comprehended, *or even read* the texts we're studying. *Show* that you are working. Likewise, focus on *quality* of discussion contribution rather than the quantity.

**Lateness**
Three words for you: *Be on time.* For every three (3) times you are late, you will be counted as one (1) class period absent. Likewise, you must be in attendance at least $3/4^{th}$ of said class in order to be marked present.

**Respect**
While involved in classroom discussions, not every student will have the same opinion or view about subject matter. Thankfully, though, this promotes a diverse atmosphere and allows for more interesting discussions to occur. No one's opinion is necessarily right or wrong concerning course material or discussion topics, which makes class discussion all the more intriguing. Your professor is one of the most open-minded and accepting people you will ever meet, so if you have something to say, *say it.*

## ADDITIONAL TRAVEL & CLASS NOTES:

Professor Snider lived in London for five years while doing his Ph.D., during which time he was also a television producer-writer for *Entertainment Tonight* and thus traveled ALL over the city to every locale imaginable. Whenever you need directions or suggestions—or have any other questions, for that matter—please do not hesitate to ask!

### THE 2 MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU MUST PACK:

**PASSPORT:** You obviously cannot get into or out of the UK without this. Also, don't carry your passport around London with you, as this is the best way for it to get stolen or lost. In which case, also bring another form of ID (driver's license, for example—something with your birthdate) for when you're carded at various other locations. Also: Leave your passport hidden in your hotel room. If you are prone to lose things, I can even keep it for you; just let me know

**BENTLEY STUDENT I.D.**: You must have your student ID on you, **at all times**, so that we can obtain our theatre and all event tickets. Student IDs get you so many discounts, so always have yours on you. Discounts on food, restaurants, theatre, cinema, museums, shopping, nightlife, galleries, and more are at your disposal when you're a student.

### Day of Departure

*I will meet you at our Gate*, so please find me there after heading through security yourself. PLEASE make sure you're on time!

### Pack Lightly

Traveling abroad with too many material possessions is awful. In London, everyone your age lives every day in jeans and corduroys, and really does reuse the same clothing over and over. British washers and dryers aren't the greatest (the dryers are like microwaves that just warm up your wet clothes). So, just make sure you bring enough underwear and socks for two weeks. Other integral clothing items are: a rainproof coat/heavy jacket; comfortable walking shoes (especially for when we go to the Tower of London at night, where those cobblestone steps might be slick); and other articles to keep you warm. London is not only cold in January (though not as cold as New England), but it's also wet. Bring jackets/coats/sweatshirts with a hood. Bring an umbrella to fit in your day-bag. Bring lots of packable layers.

### Cellphone, Laptop, Kindle, etc., Chargers

The UK has different chargers/plugs/outlets than the US, which you probably already know, so make sure you get some converters (even common places like Target sell these). An important note about this, though: Most computer cords (like my Mac, for example) are three-pronged, while most international converters are two-pronged. So, in addition to a converter, you'll also need to obtain a three-to-two-prong converter (which are also sold inexpensively at regular household or hardware stores). Check your cell phone and whatever other chargers too, so you're prepared; because these are American, they're impossible to find in London, and at the rare chance you find one, it'll be expensive. Blow dryers are typically not a good idea either, as the voltage is different and you'll run the risk of short-circuiting your hotel room.

**Class Materials**

I recommended getting a Kindle, or using an iPad or another e-reader, since many texts we're reading are free thru Amazon, making their collective cost about the same as the Kindle itself. Regardless of in what form you have the readings, just make sure you bring them. Also make sure you have something on which to type your papers and event responses (i.e. laptop, preferably); your papers and homework are a VERY important part of your trip, since this journey is, after all, a class, and deadlines are mandatory. Also don't forget that you need a **small** travel notebook to record our daily trips and experiences; this is a literature and class…! *We'll move through these texts rather quickly, so stat reading sooner than later*.

**Class Meetings**

Our class meetings/discussions will be sort of like business meetings, held mostly in conference rooms or other meeting areas at the hotel, or occasionally even in cafés. So, come ready to work. We're not just hanging out all over the city; *we're working*. Bring your notebook and the texts, and even your computer if that helps you, whenever we have class.

**Oyster Pass**

This travel card—called the Oyster Pass—is how we'll get around the city via tube lines and buses. I will provide them for you on our first day of class-related travel. You are free to use these to travel the city elsewhere, but if/when you exceed the £70 amount allotted to you, you are responsible for 'topping up' (i.e. adding money to with a credit card or pounds) your Oyster.

**Money**

I personally do not bother with exchanging dollars for pounds before arrival in the UK, and I've never used traveler's checks. Some international ATM fees can indeed be expensive (sometimes more than $5 per withdrawal), so I just get out a bunch of cash at once instead of repeatedly going to the ATM. And then I of course don't carry all that cash around with me. Nearly everywhere takes credit cards too, but it is important that you call both your credit card company and bank beforehand to make sure they don't charge extortionate international fees, and also for authorization to use your cards abroad; some CC companies oddly freeze card use internationally at the weirdest times, so make sure this doesn't happen.

**Hotel Behavior**

I am easygoing, but one tacky thing I won't tolerate is immature hotel parties. Don't have them. Don't even entertain the idea. Don't even think you can have them quietly. Bentley study abroad groups have been going to London for years, which means we have a positive, professional relationship with certain hotels. So, if you mess up our relationship with the hotel, you'll be screwing up other students' study abroad trips for years to come.

**Food**

Central London, where we're staying, is expensive, mostly because businesses prey on unknowing tourists' spending habits. But, thankfully there are quite a few food halls and shops nearby. Marks & Spencer's food shop is awesome (and healthy, too, so you don't have to eat fast food crap two weeks), and there are tons of other affordable, student-friendly cafes nearby. Other local grocery shops with urban grab-and-go food like Sainsbury's, Tesco Express, and even Boots all feature premade food for cheap too. Sometimes even pub food is expensive too, dependent upon where you go. Look for signs out front; so many cafes advertise student discounts and cheap Meal Deals.

**Health**

Here's the one time I'll sound like a parent: Please remember to do all those little daily healthful things like (1) Drink water and stay hydrated (bottled water is cheap, like 60 pence or less, or you can just drink the Thames tap water – it's safe), (2) Take your meds if you're on meds, (3) Wash your hands, and (4) Sleep. Really. I am totally serious. These 4 things make all the difference for traveling abroad. If you get ill, you'll be miserable and depressed under rainy skies and miss London fun in its entirety. NOTE: If there's anything important you'd like to let me know about your daily or semi-regular health and/or medical concerns, feel free, so that I can be prepared too.

**Go Play in London**

Undoubtedly, the best thing to do in London is to just go get lost, but only lost enough that you can still find your way back. The city twists and turns and winds and curves all over the place with confusing street names. Otherwise, still don't be afraid to go exploring. And, seriously, I know where stuff is, so don't hesitate to ask for directions.

***Time Out London***…is like a daytime and nightlife bible of awesomeness, with so many listings for what's happening weekly (museums, cinema, clubs, etc.). It's also FREE.

**Museums**: London museums range from controversial and cutting edge (Tate Modern, galleries in Shoreditch and Hoxton Square) to classically artistic and historical (National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, Tate Britain, Victoria & Albert, etc.). Many of these are FREE, but those that cost offer student discounts. Even if you're not into art, many of these are great just for the building spaces themselves; they're an excellent opportunity to wander free for a few hours to get out of the rain, too. Or, you can just people-watch to your heart's desire.

**Theatre:** We're already going to two West End plays, but there are of course many more, most of which offer highly affordable student discounts sold on the day of the performance. Check with the theatre or in *Time Out London* or on Playbill.com.

**Cinema**…is actually rather expensive in London. Plus, films are released in the UK oftentimes months after they debut in the States. This said, there is a theatre near Leicester Square called the Prince Charles, which has cheap movies, drinks and snacks; it's like the student party cinema. Check its website.

**Sports:** If you're a (European) football fan, there are usually games in London in January. I recommend buying tickets in advance, though. Just please be careful – UK football hooligans are INSANE…I traveled around Europe one summer during the World Cup and saw so many fights break out in stadiums and train stations, and people really can get hurt.

**Shopping**: If you're a fashionista and really need to see high-end London fashion, go to the wild experience that is Selfridges. There's also Harrod's nearby in Knightsbridge/Kensington, which is historical, ginormous, and one-of-a-kind. Other shopping extravaganzas are in Chelsea and Notting Hill. Camden Town/Market (which we're going to anyway) is also affordable and trendier. And, just skip much of Oxford Street since it's mostly all tourist trap rip-offs.
**Nightlife:** Yes, of course you only have to be 18 to party it up in London. So, please be safe and play responsibly so that you don't get me or yourself into trouble. Most clubs indeed are expensive, and late-license pubs/bars can be too.

**LASTLY, BUT IMPORTANT:**
**COME TO ME FOR HELP**. If something, anything, whatever happens—be it a concern of health, safety, or an accident—PLEASE come ask me for help, immediately. I'm obviously traveling with you and can help you more readily than a family member or friend back in the States or whatever random British person you just met. London is a second home to me, so chances are I'll know what to do. ***I'm sure we'll all be wonderfully smart and safe anyway, so this won't be a problem…***