

LONDON AS TEXT

Summer 2009

"London as Text" is a special section of ENGL 4482 Popular Culture for the study abroad program, Summer 2009.



ENGL 4482: Popular Culture London in Art, London in Person

Offered by: Dr. Gerald Lucas

This course examines the idea of "London" in literature, architecture, visual art, technology, music, and film. We will study cultural texts that inform the ideological construction of "London" and visit some of the key places that define it as a historical place and a cultural construct. We're interested not only in mainstream cultural expressions, but also those of "derelict" London, or the expressions of the many sub- and popular cultures of the city. How do these various expressions, combined with the physical structures of the city combine to to make a living, vibrant, and polysemous entity?

Required Materials

- ▶ A packet of reading materials that will be available for download.
- ▶ A computer, or computer access.
- ▶ A digital camera, or access to one.
- ▶ Books, TBA.

ENGL 4482: Popular Culture Course Requirements

Daily Blog (40%)

Each day, you should record your experiences about London, both from your reading and your daily experiences. Your blog should contain your thoughts and analysis about London culture, art, architecture, food, multi-culturalism, and life. You should include not only writing, but other multimedia from your wanderings, like photos and movie clips.

Exam (20%)

A cumulative final essay exam will be given that covers readings, vocabulary, discussions, and field trips.

Wiki Contribution (20%)

You will be contributing at least one article to the course wiki. Consider the wiki like a class newsletter about London, and you are a reporter that needs to research and write a specific article that highlights a particular aspect of our classes' study of London.

Participation (20%)

All classroom activities that are not defined above count toward class participation, like quizzes, viewing a film, etc.

“You find no man, at all intellectual, who is willing to leave London. No, Sir, when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford.”

Samuel Johnson

Schedule

Week 1: Poetry

Week 2: Prose

Week 3: Visual Art

Week 4: London Sub-Culture

Week 5: Digital Culture

Faces of London

Left: the famous graffiti of Banksy; Right: the Millennium Wheel in central London

