Exhibiting Ourselves: Museums, Display and Identity in London

Faculty: Roger Bowdler

Course Description: This course aims to develop visual literacy and awareness of the cultural context in which museums and galleries are presented to the public. Over fifteen weeks, it introduces students to the rich museum culture of London, and to public art outside the gallery. Through lectures, seminars and visits, we will explore history, art, the rhetoric of display and how/if the state has used these to develop a sense of national identity. The development of public museums is well told through world-class institutions such as the British Museum, Sir John Soane’s Museum, and the Natural History Museum; other institutions also eloquently tell how objects and places of inspiration have developed and presented to the public. Historical context, architectural history, the history of collecting and the world of the museum professional are all looked at during the course. And we go outside the gallery too, to consider how statues and memorials create a remarkable display of public art.

Course Objectives: Over the course of an intense 5 weeks, students will develop skills in visual literacy and widen their understanding of the cultural context of museums. Your understanding of British and world history, and of how this history has been presented to the public through museums, will grow: and your awareness of some of the debates around cultural politics will develop too. Some of the practical issues faced by the museum professionals will become more familiar. You will also acquire an enhanced appreciation of architecture, including the changing nature of display spaces, and of the inter-action of art and buildings. Students will also become more familiar with the language of commemoration and remembrance as expressed in public statuary and war memorials, and appreciate how these relate to the overall theme of national identity.

Academic excursions: Students participate in mandatory excursions in and around the city of London. Excursions include: The British Museum, Hampton Court Palace, Museum Docklands and Greenwich, The Imperial War Museum, The National Gallery, and The Tate Modern.

Attendance Policy: Attendance policies are strictly enforced on this program. Instructors maintain attendance records, and absences from class are strongly discouraged. Attendance at all components of a class (lecture, seminar, field visits, etc.) is expected. Violation of the attendance policy results in sanctions including a lower grade, loss of course credit, or dismissal from the program. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the grade reduction policies for unauthorized absence at the beginning of the term. If you experience an emergency that prevents you from attending class, contact your instructor and your programs coordinator jennifer.taylor@accentintl.com.

Every missed class with no prior approval will result in a penalty of 5% reduction in the student grade for the course.
Health and Urbanism: Landscapes of Health and Disease

Faculty: Claire Thompson

Course Description: The notion that the social and physical environment impacts upon health has led social commentators, politicians, researchers, historians and public health officials to both scrutinize and theorize the ways in which the landscape of London helps shape the health and wellbeing of its inhabitants. Since the mid-eighteenth century medicine has become a major economic and political concern for those who have governed London. This course aims to compare the landscapes of disease and (im)morality of Victorian London with contemporary London, accompanied by an examination of how the intervening world wars and establishment of the welfare state shaped the social and physical landscape of the city in relation to health.

Course Objectives:

- Gained an insight into the situated health challenges of rich and unequal cities
- Be able to explain the health and social environment of Victorian and contemporary London, and make comparisons between the two periods
- An understanding of how the state and charities responded (and continue to respond) to these challenging environments
- Explored how global and national events of the first half of the twentieth century changed the social and physical landscape of London
- Developed a critical understanding of the pervasive nature of urban health inequalities


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Policing London: Policing Policy and Justice in the Global City

Faculty: Michael Owens

**Course Description:** The course explores the relationship between the police, the judicial system and policy makers in London. Students will learn the history of the police force in the UK and the developments that have formed the Metropolitan Police in London today. Topics covered will include: corruption, race relations, policing major demonstrations and riots, and the impact of government policy on policing. Students will explore the politics behind decisions and the framework of the law.

**Course Objectives:**
- Explain how the institution of the Metropolitan Police Service was established and has evolved within the wider context of national and London governance;
- Identify some of the key public order issues that have been experienced in London over the past 150 years;
- Analyze the changing policing responses to specific challenges to public order and to wider shifts in the social context for policing;
- Discuss these issues in depth and demonstrate students’ understanding through written and oral presentation of their ideas.

**Academic excursions:** Students participate in mandatory excursions in and around the city of London. Excursions include: Canary Wharf and Poplar, and Olympic Park.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance policies are strictly enforced on this program. Instructors maintain attendance records, and absences from class are strongly discouraged. Attendance at all components of a class (lecture, seminar, field visits, etc.) is expected. Violation of the attendance policy results in sanctions including a lower grade, loss of course credit, or dismissal from the program. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the grade reduction policies for unauthorized absence at the beginning of the term. If you experience an emergency that prevents you from attending class, contact your instructor and your programs coordinator jennifer.taylor@accentintl.com.

**Every missed class with no prior approval will result in a penalty of 5% reduction in the student grade for the course.**