**Course Description:** This course focuses on the development of ‘modern’ London (c.1800 to the present day) in order to critically explore a set of wider intellectual issues about the nature of cities and urban ways of life. It takes an interdisciplinary perspective drawing upon a range of ideas and scholarship – including social and cultural history, art history, geography and sociology – central to the broad field of urban studies. Three sets of interrelated themes provide a theoretical focus: modernity and the city; landscapes of power and inequality; and culture, identity and urban space. The three main sections of the course deal with key periods of in the history of modern London. The first section, “London: Capital of Modernity,” examines the ways in which London became a “modern” city in the nineteenth century. The second section, “The Challenge of Modernity: London in the Twentieth Century,” considers London in the turbulent decades of the early twentieth century and the efforts to repair bomb damaged London and the comprehensive reconstruction of some parts of the city after World War Two. The third section, “Neoliberal London: Transforming Society and Space,” studies in depth some of the major features of the city in the later-twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, focusing on London’s global city characteristics and considers intellectual debates about contemporary society and culture in an urban context.

**Course Objectives:**
By the end of the course students gain a critical understanding of some of the processes that shape cities and experiences of life within them. Students acquire a knowledge and understanding of the history and geography of London that surpasses that of most people who live here! In short, it is hoped this course significantly enriches students’ experience of living and studying in one of the world’s most important and exciting cities.

**Grading:**
- Short Paper 20%
- Analytical Briefing Paper 20%
- Group Presentation 20%
- Blog Post 10%
- Final Examination 30%

**Attendance Policy:**
The attendance policy is written in full in your academic handbook. In short, attendance at ALL sessions and excursions is obligatory, failure of which will result in an automatic grade deduction.

**Sources for readings:**
*Course Reader*
The literature on London is voluminous. A selection has been made to support your studies from a range of articles, chapters and extracts that relate to the themes of course. These are available on the relevant pages of the ACCENT Course Management System.