

 <p><b>BOSTON UNIVERSITY</b> <b>BRITISH PROGRAMMES</b></p>	<p><b>Boston University British Programmes</b> <b>CAS AH 381</b> <b>London Architecture and Urbanism</b> <b>Generic Syllabus</b> <b>Elective B</b></p>
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**Note:** This course is taught in multiple sections by several tutors and as such teaching methods, lecture themes and paper topics may vary.

**Course Overview:** This course provides an introduction to the history of London and its buildings. It is aimed at a wide audience, not architectural specialists, although some familiarity with British history is helpful. London's architecture and urban development will be explored through the themes that shaped the physical characteristics of London as a world city, including mapping the city, the city as representation of national identity, navigating the ever changing city and a review of recent developments. We will be looking at the growth of the city as a historical phenomenon, covering early modern London to the present day and assessing it as the result of social, political and economic change. Architectural styles will be discussed in the context of these wider topics.

**Teaching Pattern:** Teaching Sessions will be divided between classroom lectures and field trips. Students should bring travel cards and be dressed for all weather walking.

Attendance at all classes and visits is mandatory. Students missing any session without a doctor's letter or authorisation from the Director will automatically be docked a grade. Persistent lateness will be penalised.

**Assessment Methods:**

1) The course work assignment is due by 9.30am before lecture eight and is to be handed into the Academic office. This piece of work counts for 50% of the overall mark. Full details of the assignment are printed on the back sheet of this course outline.

2) The final exam is a seen paper and the questions will be handed out in one week before the exam date. The paper consists of 2 questions of 25% each in value which counts for 50% of the overall mark.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Lecture One:**

Meet at Boston University

Lecture: Introduction

Field Trip: Bloomsbury

**Lecture Two:**

Meet at Boston University

Lecture: London World City  
Field Trip: Museum of London

**Lecture Three:**

Meet at Boston University  
Lecture: Interpreting Architecture  
Field Trip: Covent Garden

**Lecture Four:**

Lecture: Battle of the Styles: Victorian Architecture  
Field Trip: Parliament Square to Trafalgar Square

**Lecture's Five & Six:**

Meet at Boston University  
Lecture: Making Modern London: And the Age of Optimism  
Field Trip: Bedford Park – South Bank

**Course Assignment is due and is to be handed into the Academic Office by 9.30am.**

**Lecture's Seven & Eight:**

Meet at Boston University  
Lecture: The Commercial City  
Westminster Pier Boat Trip to Cutty Sark, Greenwich to Canary Wharf.

**Lecture Nine:**

Meet at Monument Station  
Field Trip: The City

**OPTIONAL EXTRA –**

London by bus - details to follow  
A review class on a Routemaster bus.

**Final Exam:**

See BU website for updates.

**COURSE WORK ASSIGNMENT**

**Mapping Your Journey**

Mapping Your Journey is an assignment that requires two elements of work which should directly relate to each other.

1. For the first task you are required to write an essay describing the journey you take from your residence to your place of work. Observe and describe the memorable elements encountered on the journey from the smallest detail of a doorway, to a statue, a landmark or an entire building.

2. The second part of the task is to create a visual record using maps and illustrations to depict your journey. The map should reference significant landmarks, including architecture and objects of any kind in the urban, built environment. The visual presentation should be in A4 format. Please use photographs and or / drawings and make sure that all illustrations are clearly labelled and are given full captions.

Or

### **Identify 1 Square Of The A-Z: Researching The History Of A District**

The London A-Z is the best guide to the complex organisation of London's streets. Please use this guide to select one square from its pages to explore. Your essay should include all of the following. A potted history of the chosen area, tracing its earliest beginnings to the present day. A definition of the area, including the London borough it is in and it should include a description of the streets and landmarks. The landmarks could include specific buildings, street planning and layout, markets, street names and signs etc. Additionally it would be useful to examine the area with reference to its present complexion. For example, is the area dominated by a low rise housing development? Essays should be 2000 words in length and illustrated using photographs and /or drawings. Please make sure that all illustrations are clearly labelled and given full captions.

Both written papers should indicate thorough research and critical use of literary sources, with footnotes and a bibliographic sheet. Factual information such as dates of buildings, architects and the urban environment must be researched from published documentary evidence and publications. The Internet is not an acceptable source.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Felix Barker & Ralph Hyde, *London as it might have been*, John Murray, 1982

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Stefan Muthesius, *The English Terraced House*, Yale University Press, 1982

Ed. Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England Series: London*, (Penguin from 1951), republished Yale University Press from 2002

Kenneth Powell, *City Reborn: Architecture and Regeneration in London, from Bankside to Dulwich*, Merrell Publishers, 2004

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Andrew Saint, et al., *London Suburbs*, Merrell Holberton, 1999

Ann Saunders, *The Art and Architecture of London: An Illustrated Guide*, Phaidon, 1988

Deyan Sudjic & Helen Jones, *Architecture and Democracy*, Laurence King, 2001

Ed. Sheila Taylor, *The Moving Metropolis*, Laurence King, 2001.

Ben Weinreb & Christopher Hibbert, *The London Encyclopaedia*, Macmillan, 1983

Mathew Weinreb, *London Architecture, features and facades*, Phaidon, 1993

## GRADING SYSTEM

The following Boston University table explains the grading system that is used by faculty members on Boston University's British Programmes.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Honour Points</b>	<b>Usual%</b>	<b>Definition</b>
A	4.0	93-100	Excellent
A-	3.7	89-92	
B+	3.3	85-88	
B	3.0	81-84	Good
B-	2.7	77-80	
C+	2.3	73-76	
C	2.0	69-72	Satisfactory

C-	1.7	65-68	
D	1.0	60-64	Low pass
F	0.0	Unmarked Fail	

### **Grading Criteria**

**A** An exceptional grade that is only given to work that shows a consistent and outstanding level of insight and expression. This type of essay shows a rigorous and persuasive attention both to matters of detailed explication and to wider questions of evaluation. Crucially, this type of essay will also show real independence of thought expressed in fluent and well-written English.

**A-** A grade that is given to work that shows a commanding grasp of the central issues and also demonstrates an ability for close textual analysis combined with attention being paid to the larger implications of the analysis (whether this involves aesthetic, moral, political, or other considerations.) An appreciable degree of background reading and intelligent use of that reading is often shown at this level, and allowance is given here for the odd weak points and infelicities in phrasing

**B+, B, B-** This range of grades indicates descending levels of competence and thoroughness. On the whole, the B essay is less polished than the A essay, but a B+ essay will certainly still have to show commendably detailed stretches of analysis, a clear grasp of the central issues and some discussion of the implications of a student's close reading of any given text(s). Work within the B grades often shows evidence of reading in the secondary literature (critical commentaries and background reading) but also often shows an overdependence on such sources over and against making intelligent, critical and discrete use of that reading. The sharpening and exercising of your own critical responses is the target to aim for, and, whereas many essays in the B range show a good understanding of the ground gone over in class there is less evidence here of really independent analysis and appreciation. The difference between a B+, a straight B, and a B-, typically involves the frequency of spelling mistakes, awkwardness or solecisms in expression, or clumsiness in the exposition of your analysis or argumentation.

**C+, C, C-** These grades indicate unsatisfactory work. Such essays may suffer from being too vague and generalised or else being excessively narrow in coverage; they may be seriously marred by errors of fact or errors of interpretation; they may involve only a crude repetition of areas covered in class without any demonstration of real intellectual engagement with the issues. The differences between a C+, a straight C, and a C- reflect the various degrees of inadequacy of organisation and presentation. Essays that are riddled with errors in spelling, punctuation and syntax, or are chaotic in argument and exposition, will fall into the lowest range.

**D** A marginal pass can be given where some but not all the elements of the course have been completed satisfactorily.

**F** The failing grade indicates the work is seriously flawed in one or more ways:

\*Obvious lack of familiarity with the material

\*So poorly written as to defy understanding

\*So brief and insubstantial that it fails to properly address the subject

\*Material presented is not relevant to the assignment

\*Demonstrates evidence of plagiarism

### **Boston University's code of student responsibilities**

The value of any grade, credit, honour or degree received by a student presupposes that all work submitted by a student is his or her own. A student who uses or relies upon the work of others or who, except under conditions expressly permitted by the instructor, furnishes assistance to another student, violates the standards of the University. Students must insist upon academic honesty and integrity from their fellow students and must report promptly any case of alleged academic conduct. Failure to do so is a violation of this code.

Plagiarism can take many forms, including the reproduction of published material without acknowledgement, or representing work done by others as your own. This includes the increasingly common practice of purchasing and downloading work from Internet 'paper mills'. You should be extremely careful when submitting work for this course that all work is correctly sourced. Print outs of web sites that have been used in research may be required by the lecturer in cases of a grade dispute and all web site based reference material should be kept by the student until after the end of the semester.