

LONDON HIGH AND LOW

Literature, Theatre, and Popular Culture

Program Description

Explore London: step by step, text by text, neighborhood by neighborhood. Walk in the footsteps of famous writers and their characters. Look for Harry Potter on platform 9 ¾ in King's Cross Station. Discuss detective stories in the Sherlock Holmes Pub. Join intellectual conversations in Bloomsbury. Imagine the author at work in the Dickens House Museum. Stroll down the stately streets of Westminster with Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway. Haunt the labyrinthine allies of Soho with Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde. Be a groundling in Shakespeare's Globe. Mingle with artists and bohemians of the East End, and with the business crowd of the City. Take in the views from Hampstead Heath. Witness fruits of globalization in the ethnically diverse neighborhoods of the metropolis. Read London. Walk London. Know London.

Visit museums and pubs, theaters and back alleys. Fly high and low! Investigate the porous boundaries and mutual influences between literature and popular culture. Experience both the great art and the cutting-edge fads of London. Savor its grand historical beauty as well as its electrifying modern diversity. Visiting a writer's house, viewing an artist's painting in a museum, or seeing a Shakespeare play in the Globe will help you understand authors and their works, changing your relationship in subtle ways to these writers, their works, and the age during which they wrote.

This course will introduce you to London through literary texts, theatrical productions, and visits to many places you have read and/or will read about. In these ways, you might think of London itself as a "character."

Course Requirements (Tentatively)

Readings will be organized by areas of London they depict.

Books student will purchase and read before arriving in London.

**J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

**Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

**Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Handouts supplied to students in London.

**Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (London Chapters)

**Selections of the poetry of William Blake and/or John Keats

**Charles Dickens, "A Visit to Newgate" (from *Sketches from Boz*)

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, one or two Sherlock Holmes stories

**Zadie Smith, "The Waiter's Wife"

**Selections from the Norton Anthology *London*

Students will see a performance of a Shakespeare play and at least one contemporary play.

There will be some weekly assignments (e.g., a travel/literary journal or brief literary analysis), some quizzes, and perhaps a short essay that allows you to explore a work you have read and a place you have visited in London.

Program Leaders

Dejan Kuzmanovic (dkuzmano@uwsp.edu) grew up in Europe and lived in London for six months in 2014. He is a passionate traveler, a specialist in late-19th and early-20th-century British literature, and very excited to share with UWSP students his love of literature, theater, and London.

Robert Sirabian (rsirabia@uwsp.edu) specializes in 19th-century British Romantic and Victorian literature. He has visited London several times and enjoys sharing his passion for literature and London with students.