

English 395: LONDON HIGH AND LOW

Literature, Theatre, and Popular Culture

(June 2025: Specific dates TBA)

This three-credit, three-week course meets the Humanities General Education requirements.

Read London. Walk London. Know London.

- Starting from your lodgings in **Marylebone**, walk in the footsteps of famous writers and their characters.
- Discuss detective stories in the Sherlock Holmes Museum outside **Regent's Park**.
- Look for Harry Potter on King's Cross Station platform 9 ¾ in **St. Pancras**.
- Join intellectual conversations near the University of London and the British Museum in **Bloomsbury**.
- Imagine Charles Dickens at work while visiting his home in **Clerkenwell**.
- Haunt the labyrinthine allies of **Soho** with Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde.
- Stroll down the stately streets of **Westminster** with Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway.
- Be a groundling in Shakespeare's Globe in **Southwark**.
- Mingle with artists and bohemians of **Shoreditch**, and with the business crowd of **the City**.
- Take in the views from **Hampstead Heath**. And more. (Find the highlighted neighborhoods on the map other side of this flyer)

Fly high and low! Visit museums and pubs, theaters, and back alleys. Experience both the great art and the cutting-edge fads of London. Savor its grand historical beauty as well as its electrifying modern diversity. Investigate the porous boundaries and mutual influences between literature and popular culture. Seeing the places you will read about will help you understand how London itself is a “character” in these diverse texts.

Possible Readings: J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, R. L. Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*.

Short texts by Jane Austen, William Blake, John Keats, Charles Dickens, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Bernardine Evaristo, and others.

Potential Visits: Performance of a Shakespeare play at the Globe and a contemporary play, Sherlock Holmes Museum, Charles Dickens Museum, John Keats House, Tate Britain, walks in London neighborhoods, possible day trips to the Harry Potter World and the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth, Yorkshire.

Program Leaders: Professor Robert Sirabian (rsirabia@uwsp.edu); Professor Wade Mahon (wmahon@uwsp.edu)

Email us for more information and to be on our email list.



