

History 564, Spring 2004  
Instructor: Kaarin Michaelsen

TuTh, 12:30-1:45 p.m.  
222 McIver

### **“The Changing City: Fin-de-Siecle London”**

In this course, students will be examining in detail some of the major social, political, and cultural issues, which confronted fin-de-siècle Londoners. During the years 1870-1914, London's citizens endured a period of immense civic and cultural change, as they witnessed the rise of the powerful London County Council, began to confront the deepening social division between the East and West ends of the city, and both supported and contested the efforts undertaken by civic functionaries and philanthropists to reform and reshape what they saw as an increasingly troubled metropolis. These last few decades prior to the turn of the 20th century also saw Londoners grappling with the media sensationalism surrounding the "Jack the Ripper" murders in Whitechapel, the emergence of the "New Woman" phenomenon, and the rise of modern department store consumerism.

The basic format of this course will consist of group discussions of assigned readings selected from the work of historians (e.g. Judith Walkowitz, Erika Rappoport), along with a variety of primary source documents written by Londoners themselves (e.g. George Gissing's *In the Year of Jubilee*, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor*). Students will be expected to participate extensively in the discussions and will be required to assist the instructor in leading the seminar at least once during the semester. Assignments will consist of three short (5-7 pages for undergrads; 8-10 pages for grad students) paper assignments and weekly “responses” (1-2 pages max.) to the assigned readings.

This seminar is intended for junior and senior History majors, as well as graduate students, but individuals from other years and disciplines are more than welcome to participate. While students aren't required to have had any previous coursework specifically focusing on Britain prior to taking this class, they'll find it very useful to have a basic working knowledge (equivalent to History 223) of 19th century European history.

#### Required Readings

The following books are required for this course and are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore in Elliot University Center and at Addams Bookstore. Copies of the books will also be placed on reserve in Jackson Library.

Forster, E. M. *Howards End* (Bantam).

Rappoport, Erika. *Shopping for Pleasure: Women in the Making of London's West End* (Princeton).

Schneer, Jonathan. *London 1900: The Imperial Metropolis* (Yale).

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Bantam).

Walkowitz, Judith. *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London* (Chicago).

Other required reading for this class will be in the form of journal articles and short selections from other primary sources. Xerox copies of these items will be distributed in class.

### Grading

Grades for this course will be assigned according to the following scheme:

- 35% -- Participation (includes leading seminar)
- 15% -- Paper Assignment 1
- 20% -- Paper Assignment 2
- 20% -- Paper Assignment 3
- 10% -- Attendance (includes the weekly responses)

### Weather Information

As you might be aware, central North Carolina often receives inclement weather during the Spring semester. On days when the weather looks “iffy,” please be sure to call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line **(336) 334-4400** or look on the UNCG home page ([www.uncg.edu](http://www.uncg.edu)) for updates/schedule changes. If there is a delayed opening of the campus that runs into our normal class time, please come to class **as soon as** the delay is over; our class meetings will run through the end of the regularly scheduled period.

### Syllabus

January 13: Introduction: Why London Rocks!  
January 15: Consciously Ordering the City: Navigating Around Victorian London

#### ***The Divided City: “Darkest London” vs. the West End***

January 20, 22: “There is only one topic throughout all England”: Jack the Ripper’s London

**Reading:** *City of Dreadful Delight*: Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 7  
Lowndes, Mrs. Belloc. “The Lodger.” *McClure’s Magazine* 36 (Jan. 1911):  
262-276. (Xerox)  
Excerpts from *The Times* and the police investigation of the Ripper Case.  
(Xerox)

January 27, 29: “A strangely mingled monster”: The East End and the “Criminal”  
Element

**Reading:** *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (entire)  
Mayhew, Henry. *London Labour and the London Poor*, pp. Introduction,  
9-12, 17-52, 218-247. (Xerox)

February 3, 5: “A universal desire for investigation”: Classifying and Publicizing Vice

**Reading:** Mayhew, *London Labour*, pp. 368-443, 473-508. (Xerox)  
*City of Dreadful Delight*, Chapters 3 and 4.

***Rescuing the City: Poverty, Philanthropy, and "Outcast London"***

February 10, 12: "London's rotting interior": Investigating and Analyzing Poverty

**Reading:** Fried, Albert and Richard Elman, eds. *Charles Booth's London: A Portrait of the Poor at the Turn of the Century*, pp. x-xxxv, 9-24, 55-70, 88-97, 175-201, 290-319. (Xerox)

February 17, 19: "The desire to alleviate their wretchedness": Reclaiming London's Slums

**Reading:** Mearns, Andrew. *The Bitter Cry of Outcast London*, including Wohl's Introduction, the articles from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and those by Salisbury, Crozier and Chamberlain. (Xerox)

February 20: PAPER 1 DUE IN MY BOX IN 219 MCIVER BY 5 P.M.!!

February 24: "The gift of the rich to the poor": Poverty, Charity, and Class

**Reading:** Ross, Ellen. "Hungry Children: Housewives and London Charity, 1870-1918." In *The Uses of Charity, The Poor on Relief in the Nineteenth-Century Metropolis*, pp. 161-187. (Xerox)  
Weiner, Deborah. "The People's Palace: An Image for East London in the 1880s." In *Metropolis London: Histories and Representations Since 1800*, ed. Feldman, David and Gareth Stedman Jones, pp. 40-53. (Xerox)  
Mandler, Peter. "Poverty and Charity in the Nineteenth-Century Metropolis: An Introduction." In *The Uses of Charity*, pp. 1-28. (Xerox)

February 26: NO CLASS! (Kaarin's guest-lecturing for Professor Franz)

***Cleaning Up the City: Public Health and Municipal Activities***

March 2, 4: "Life in the 'Great Cesspool'": Dirt, Disease, and Local Government

**Reading:** Wohl, Anthony. *Endangered Lives: Public Health in Victorian Britain*, Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 12. (Xerox)  
Simon, John. "The Politics of Poverty," in *English Sanitary Institutions*, pp. 434-462 (Xerox).  
Richardson, Benjamin. *Hygeia: A City of Health*, pp. 1-47. (Xerox)

March 9, 11: Spring Break – NO CLASS! : )

***“All the Pleasures that Life Can Afford”: Urban Life and Entertainment***

March 16, 18: “When ladies go shopping...”: Gender, Consumerism, and Pleasure

**Reading:** *Shopping for Pleasure* (entire)

March 23, 25: Football, Pubs, and Music Halls: Life and Leisure of the Working Class

**Reading:** “Football as a Moral Agent.” *Nineteenth Century* 34 (1893): 899-911.  
(Xerox)

“The New Football Mania.” *Nineteenth Century* 32 (1891): 622-631.  
(Xerox).

Harrison, Brian. “Pubs.” In *The Victorian City: Images and Realities*, ed.  
Dyos and Wolff, pp. 161-189. (Xerox)

Excerpts from Horrall, Andrew. *Popular Culture in London, 1890-1918*.  
(Xerox)

March 26: PAPER 2 DUE IN MY BOX IN 219 MCIVER BY 5 PM!!

Mar. 30, Apr. 1: “Walking about at night, as lots of people will”: Locating London’s  
“New Women”

**Reading:** Gissing, George. *In the Year of Jubilee* (entire). (Xerox).

April 6, 8: Quelle Horreur! Scandalizing the City!: The Trials of Oscar Wilde

**Reading:** Excerpts from the trial transcripts, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Star*, and short selections from secondary sources. (Xerox)

***Alternative Conceptions of the City***

April 13, 15: “The Imperial Metropolis”: London as a “World City”

**Reading:** Schneer, Jonathan. *London 1900: The Imperial Metropolis* (entire)

April 20, 22: A Changing Century, A Changing City: Edwardian London

**Reading:** *Howards End* (entire)

April 27: “Legacies of Fin-de-Siecle London”: Last Day of Class!!

**Reading:** Dyos, H. J. and Michael Wolff. “The Way We Live Now.” In *The Victorian City: Images and Realities*, ed. Dyos and Wolff, pp. 893-907. (Xerox)

April 29:

PAPER 3 DUE IN MY BOX IN THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT MAIN  
OFFICE (219 MCIVER) BY 5 P.M.!!