



Syllabus

Course Title: London Unfiltered: Theatre, Art, and Social Transformation

Program and Date: London Signature, May 16th – May 30th, 2027

Academic Department: Theatre, Humanities/Interdisciplinary, Art History, Bellarmine University

Instructor Name: Dr. Carol Stewart

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Get to Know Your Professor

A quick introduction: I'm a lecturer at both the University of Louisville and Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, where I teach courses in Theatre, Humanities, and Interdisciplinary Studies. I've spent most of my academic and creative life moving between disciplines, which is probably one reason I love teaching this course: I'm interested in the connections between things. Theatre leads us to history, visual art leads us to politics, music leads us into communities, food tells us stories about migration and culture—and sometimes turning down a street just to see what's there leads to one of the best discoveries of the day.

This will be my eighth year teaching in London with CCSA, and one of my favorite things about returning is that I know the city well enough to help you get beyond the obvious destinations—but London is big, complicated, creative, and constantly changing enough that there will always be something new for all of us to discover. I'm excited to share a city I love with you, and even more excited to see what we find there together.

Course Description

London isn't just a city you visit—it's a place you experience, a living hub of centuries of creativity, art, and culture—and in this course, it's your classroom. You'll explore some of London's famous sites, but you'll spend even more time discovering unique destinations and experiences that are off the beaten path. From Shakespeare at the Globe to experimental performances in small theatres, street art in East London to the British Museum, and Kew Gardens to the canals of Little Venice, you'll move through the city's arts scene like you actually live there—because you are! As you explore the boroughs and neighborhoods of London, you'll see how art connects to real life: who gets heard, what stories are told, and how theatre, visual art, music, and street culture drive conversations about social change and community.

Course Level and Credit Hours

This course can be taken for credit hours as an undergraduate Gen Ed Fine Arts course, Introduction to Theatre, Special Topics in Art History, or Introduction to



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Humanities/Interdisciplinary Studies/Liberal Arts. It can be taken as either a lower- or upper-division course, or for Honors credit. (*Note: The assignments listed below will be adapted for those different types and levels of academic credit.)

Prerequisite(s)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

- identify and interpret elements of creative works within the cultural, historical, and social contexts in which they appear;
- evaluate different ways of experiencing and engaging with the arts, including the impact that place, environment, and community have on those experiences;
- explore London as a living cultural environment shaped by the interaction of history, creative expression, communities, and contemporary life;
- examine how theatre, visual art, music, and other forms of creative expression give voice to individuals and communities and participate in conversations about culture and social change;
- engage thoughtfully with perspectives, communities, cultural practices, and creative work that may be unfamiliar to them;
- reflect critically on new experiences, discoveries, and multiple perspectives through formal and informal writing and creative work.

Required Readings and Materials

There are no assigned textbooks for this course. Instead, the events we'll attend and the hands-on work we do—what we'll call the “artifacts” of the course—will serve as your primary texts.

Any other material you need – essays, videos, articles, tutorials – will all be made available to you electronically via our Canvas site.

Assignments and Grades

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| • Class Participation: | 100 pts |
| • Pre-Departure Preparation: | 100 pts |
| • Experiential and Reflective Engagement: | 300 pts |
| • Creative Projects: | 300 pts |
| • Final Reflections and Post-Departure Work: | 200 pts |



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Some of the specific descriptions of/rubrics for these assignments will be adapted for upper level and Honors credits.

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

Grade Percentage Points

A+	100%+	1000+
A	94–99%	940–999
A–	90–93%	900–939
B+	87–89%	870–899
B	84–86%	840–869
B–	80–83%	800–839
C+	77–79%	770–799
C	74–76%	740–769
C–	70–73%	700–739
D+	67–69%	670–699
D	64–66%	640–669
D–	60–63%	600–639
F	0–59%	0–599

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will include some or even most of the following experiences and site visits. This is a tentative list which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

Theatre performances

- West End (productions like *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *War Horse*, or *Hadestown*)
- National Theatre of Great Britain
- Shakespeare's Globe Theatre
- Young Vic Theatre
- Almeida Theatre
- Bridge Theatre

Museums, galleries, special exhibits

- British Museum
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- British Library
- Tate Modern

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- National Portrait Gallery

Presentations, conversations, and hands-on experiences with artists and experts

- Victoria and Albert Museum's Theatre and Performance collection
- Street art in Shoreditch
- House of Dreams Museum
- London Stereographic Company
- National Theatre Production Archives
- Young Vic Theatre Community Engagement Program

Field trips outside London

- Brighton (Royal Pavilion, Museum of Creativity)
- Kew Gardens

Tours, guided walks, and markets

- Soho and Covent Garden
- London from the River Thames
- South Bank
- London Eye
- Spitalfields Market
- Borough Market
- Chinatown
- Brixton

And don't forget food and drink (ranging from the expected to the quirky)! You'll have opportunities to try:

- Dinner in a traditional British pub
- Fish and chips
- Afternoon tea
- Pasties, pies, bangers, and mash
- Cakes, puddings, crumbles, tarts, macarons, and scones
- Gelato flowers, bubble waffles, freakshakes, taiyaki, bilog, halo halo, and ice cream crones

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

An *unexcused* absence may drastically affect your grade for the course. Whether or not an absence is excused will be determined through a conversation with me regarding the circumstances.



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Academic Integrity Policy

Just don't. This is actually a pretty difficult course to cheat in, because so much of the work grows directly out of things you have personally seen, heard, experienced, discussed, and created while we are in London. Save the effort it would take to fake that and put it into actually doing the work. **Do not use AI to manufacture observations, experiences, reflections, or creative work and present them as your own.** If you manage to find a way to plagiarize, you will fail the course and we will contact your home university.

Course Content and Content Warnings

The arts have always been one of the ways human beings challenge ideas about ourselves, other people, our communities, and the world around us. As a result, some of the theatre, art, music, and other creative work we encounter may contain material that you find uncomfortable, upsetting, offensive—or that the artist has deliberately intended to be provocative. This may include profanity, violence, sexual language or situations, and challenging material related to race, religion, sexuality, gender, politics, identity, inequality, and other social and cultural issues.

Just as importantly, this course takes place in a living city rather than a controlled classroom. We will be exploring neighborhoods, public spaces, museums, galleries, theatres, markets, and other parts of London, and we will encounter people, ideas, perspectives, and experiences that neither you nor I can predict in advance.

I cannot guarantee that you won't encounter things that make you uncomfortable, fall outside your experience, or challenge your personal beliefs or convictions. In fact, learning how to encounter unfamiliar or challenging work without immediately dismissing it is an important part of engaging seriously with art and culture. You don't have to like everything we encounter, agree with it, or change your beliefs because of it. I will, however, ask you to remain curious long enough to consider what you are encountering, why it exists, what it might mean to someone else, and what you can learn from it.

Physical Expectations

The program requires walking 3–5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking



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such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.