



Syllabus

Course Title: Cultural Kaleidoscope: Art, Galleries, and Neighborhoods in London

Program and Date: London Signature May 30th-June 17th, 2026

Academic Department: Art and Design

Instructor Name: Dr. Ilona Szekely

Instructor Email and Phone: ilona.szekely@eku.edu 859 684-8691

Get to Know Your Professor

Dr. Ilona Szekely has been a Professor of Art Education at Eastern Kentucky University for over fifteen years. Her expertise lies in teaching art education, art appreciation, and 2D design classes. Throughout her career, she has organized numerous student groups, both nationally and internationally, to delve into the cultural richness and artistic heritage of various countries, including Finland, Spain, Italy, New Zealand, and England. Most recently, she traveled with CCSA to London and is currently engaged in reading and conducting research in preparation for another exciting trip to explore the art and visual culture of London alongside you.

Course Description

In this class, you are invited to experience London's world-class museums, contemporary art galleries, and vibrant neighborhoods. We will explore art in formal settings, such as London's National Gallery, British Museum, and Tate Modern, while also delving into the contemporary art scene, venturing into local galleries, engaging with artists, and experiencing art in unconventional settings where you'll encounter captivating murals, talented street performers, and a rich tapestry of local colors and flavors. No prior art experience is necessary to participate in this class, which enables students to analyze and interpret themes in art practices over the course of history, drawing inspiration from an unparalleled range of visual experiences.

Course Level and Credit Hours

Undergraduate and graduate - 3 credit hours

Prerequisite(s)

None



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Student Learning Outcomes

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

Gain an understanding that art and creative visual images extend beyond traditional settings.

Develop and articulate informed perspectives on the art of London.

Explore current, historical, and cultural trends through visits to museums, galleries, and historical sites, considering how these may impact visual decision-making.

Gather primary and secondary data focused on art and design through various hands-on experiences, ranging from museums to theatre and community arts settings.

Synthesize project requirements with collected primary and secondary data, utilizing insights from in-country excursions to enhance their aesthetic understanding.

Form a deeper comprehension of their learning through documentation via written reflection.

Required Readings and Materials

See Bibliography section at end of document.

Assignments and Grades

LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS	Points
10 on-site Blog Posts=20% A minimum of 10 blog posts during the trip (at least 2 pages handwritten each) during the two-week trip.	200
Participation in all activities=20% Participation in ALL scheduled class activities <i>with a positive attitude</i>	200
Personal Journal reflections=20% You will be challenged to think, asked to write, and artistically respond to the learning provided and personal experiences and plans conjured up by the trip. *documentation needs to be done daily on the trip.	200
Show What You Know assignment =10% You will be in charge of getting up our destination that day and telling us a bit about it. *Your research documented and sent to the professor.	100
Post Trip Personal Research= 30% You will be asked to research an aspect of Contemporary Art in London, creating your own action project based on your studies. This can be a research paper, an essay, an article, a video, or another form that expresses a creative view.	300

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Paper 10% 3-5 pages Project 20% *approx. 10-15 hours spent, the equivalent of an 8-page research paper.	
Graduate students Graduate students will create a more substantial final project that includes both a visual and a larger research component. This project must feature a strong list of reference materials to support their work and provide depth to their findings.	
Scale:	1000

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

Scale: 900-1000 = A; 800-899 = B; 700-799 = C; 600-699 = D; <600 = F		
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Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following 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.

Victoria and Albert Museum
 Victoria and Albert Archives
 Tate Modern Museum
 Tate Museum
 National Gallery
 Courtauld Gallery
 MOCA London

 British Museum

 Cartoon Museum

 Wallace Collection
 Unit Gallery

 Design Museum
 Barbican Center
 Serpentine Art Gallery
 Shoreditch Street Art Tour
 Architecture Walk
 Kensington Palace and Gardens
 Globe Theatre-London
 West End Theatre Experience
 Botanical Gardens
 London Living- <https://www.londonliving.info/blog/10-alternative-workshops-to-attend-in-london>



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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.

Students are required to be ON TIME for scheduled activities. A reduction in grade will result from absences or tardiness. **NO ONE likes to go on a trip with someone who is always late and holds up the entire group – wear a watch!!!**

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is the representation of the works, ideas, data, or arguments of others as one's own. Whether quoting, paraphrasing, or reiterating others' ideas, students are responsible for documenting any materials taken from other sources. This means that students identify the source through footnotes, quotation marks, and/or other forms of documentation. Sources include books, magazines, newspapers, electronic media, private letters, interviews, or other individuals' work. Additionally, a classroom paper must not be merely a series of phrases, sentences, or paragraphs copied from a source or sources. **Plagiarism on the presentation and project will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment and an F for the course.**

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 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.



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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.

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Bibliography

- Aidin, R. (n.d.). *The YBAs, The London-based Young British Artists (article)*. Khan Academy.
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/global-culture/concepts-in-art-1980-to-now/x247213a3:young-british-artists/a/the-ybas-the-london-based-young-british-artists>
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- Brooks, R. (2021, October 24). *Painting is back in the frame ... and the rising stars are mostly women*. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2021/oct/24/painting-is-back-in-the-frame-and-the-rising-stars-are-mostly-women>
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<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-story-behind-banksy-4310304/>
- Lee-Falcon, M. (2023, March 14). *A Brief History of London Art*. Seen in the City - Luxury London Travel Lifestyle Magazine. <https://seeninthecity.co.uk/2023/03/14/history-of-london-art/>
- London Living Blog. (n.d.). *London's Street Art Scene: Discover the City's Vibrant Urban Masterpieces*. <https://www.londonliving.info/blog/londons-street-art-scene>
- Lyall, S. (1999, October). *British Artists Have Been Taking Risks, and Flak, for Years*. Archive.nytimes.com.
<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/library/arts/101499brookylin-brit-artists.html>
- Navazo-Ostúa, P., Aladro-Vico, E., & Bailey, O. (2021). Processes of legitimization in contemporary Art: the young British Artists phenomenon. *Journal for Cultural Research*, 1–16.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14797585.2021.1898912>
- While, A. (2003). Locating Art Worlds: London and the Making of Young British Art. *Area*, 35(3), 251–263. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20004319>



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Videos:

The Top Ten Treasures in the British Museum - An In-Depth Museum Tour

<https://youtu.be/aZv6i01De2Q?si=7C23M5pU03AcY-Me>

Controversial Objects at the British Museum - Stolen Goods or Finders Keepers?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_8HXihcmUk

The Top Ten Paintings in The National Gallery - An In-Depth Guided Tour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prgeZ13fDHA>

Jan van Eyck, The Arnolfini Portrait

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAg7NQ0akkQ>

Bronzino, An Allegory with Venus and Cupid

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w2E8G0sEPc>

History of Graffiti | Documentary | British Street Art Through Time | Medieval to Modern

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwiCJl42PBA>