



Syllabus

Course Title: London at War: Museums and Memory of the WWII Home Front

Program and Date: London Maymester; May 16-30, 2026

Academic Department: Museum Studies/History, Walsh University

Instructor Name: Megan Pellegrino

Instructor Email and Phone: mpellegrino@walsh.edu

Get to Know Your Professor

Professor Megan Pellegrino is the Director of Museum Studies at Walsh University. She also serves as the Director of the Hoover Historical Center, an on-campus history museum all about vacuums...you read that right, a museum about vacuums! This will be her third time leading students through global learning experiences in Europe. Fun fact: Professor Pellegrino spent a semester of her undergraduate studies at St. Mary's University, which is located just outside of London in Twickenham, and is excited to share her love for this amazing city with her students!

Course Description

This immersive global learning course takes students to London's world-class museums and historic sites to explore how they interpret and present the history of Britain's home front during World War II. Through guided visits, discussions, and hands-on assignments, students will examine how exhibitions shape public understanding of wartime resilience, rationing, propaganda, and civilian experiences. Resources for this class include the Imperial War Museum, the Churchill War Rooms, historic walking tours, and the top-secret code-breaking facility at Bletchley Park. This course is ideal for students interested in museum studies, history, and public history, offering a unique opportunity to engage with the past in the very city that experienced it.

Course Level and Credit Hours

Museum Studies 300-level (3 credit hours), History 200-level (3 credit hours and eligible for honors designation)

Prerequisite(s)

None

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Identify** key sites in London that played a role in Britain's home front during World War II and explain their historical significance through guided field visits to museums, memorials, and preserved wartime locations.
2. **Describe** how London's museums use artifacts, oral histories, and immersive exhibits to convey the experiences of civilians during the Blitz, rationing, and wartime propaganda.
3. **Contrast** different curatorial approaches to interpreting the home front by visiting multiple museums (e.g., Imperial War Museum, Churchill War Rooms) and assessing how they frame historical narratives for the public.
4. **Illustrate** the connections between London's built environment and wartime history by documenting remnants of the war—such as bomb damage, air raid shelters, and commemorative plaques—through self-directed exploration.
5. **Assess** the effectiveness of museum exhibitions and public history sites in engaging diverse audiences with the history of wartime Britain through structured reflections and group discussions with museum professionals.

Required Readings and Materials

Interpreting Heritage: A Guide to Planning and Practice by Steve Slack
The Last Bookshop in London by Madeline Martin
The Blitz: The British Under Attack by Juliet Gardiner
British War Children in North Canton (video)

Assignments and Grades

- Reflections on Museum and Site Visits 20% *additional requirements for honors students
- Self-Directed Exploration Report of Wartime Remnants Found in London: Explore London looking for remnants of WWII and report what you find. 10% *additional requirements for honors students
- Comparative Exhibit Analysis of Two Exhibitions: Pick two exhibitions or sites that we visit as a class and compare them. 30%
- Mini Exhibition Design: Design an exhibition focused on one aspect of the British home front during WWII, supported by museum interpretation best practices and historical sources. Present your exhibition in a video. *Students will not actually create an exhibition, but will describe their concept with audience, interpretive methods, and historical objects. 30%
- Attendance and participation 10%



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Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

Scale: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, <60=F

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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imperial War Museum• London Museum Docklands• Churchill War Rooms• Bletchley Park• St. Paul's Cathedral |
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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.

Penalties will be assessed for unexcused absences including deduction of points.
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Academic Integrity Policy

Appropriate source documentation must be supplied for all quoted and/or referenced materials. If any student has specific questions about proper citations, quotations, etc., please contact the instructor. Failing to properly document any quoted and/or referenced materials will result in a penalty, including the deduction of points up to failure of 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.



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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.