

**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH 519.26-L01**

**Studies in a Literary Period:** City of Mind: Imaging London

**Fall**

**2012 Instructor:** Dr. Harry Vandervlist

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**Office hours:** Tuesday, 2:00-3:00 pm. I can also meet with you by appointment at mutually convenient times: please request appointments in class or via e-mail.

**Course description:**

Writing about literary representations of London in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Nicholas Freeman asks: “How could any literary or artistic work hope to do justice to the vastness of London, with its hordes, of people, its noise, its fogs, its insatiable consumption of the surrounding countryside? Answering this question taxed writers from George Gissing to E.M. Forster, from Henry James to Arthur Machen . . . .”( *Conceiving the City: London, literature, and art 1870-1914*: 6).

Freeman’s question applies in even stronger terms to those authors attempting to represent contemporary London. Since 1914 the city has contended with the impact of two world wars and the end of the British Empire, and has become a rich and contradictory postcolonial, multicultural metropolis. At a time in which “the modern city is the world’s dominant social structure” (Lehan, Richard, *The City in Literature*: 287), how do novelists writing in English portray today’s London? According to Lehan, recent novels offer a postmodern representation of cities, in which “a city is at once a physical reality and a state of mind: to read the city is to read an urbanized self, to know the city from within. Once we lose a transcendental signifier, the totalizing process is called into question and the city turns into a place of mystery: chance and the unexpected dominate, a romantic sense of the uncanny becomes exaggerated, and the city takes on a meaning of pure text, to be created by each individual and then read” (287).

As we read a small selection of London novels, we will assess how far Lehan’s view can be supported, and what alternative arguments we might suggest. As a 500-level seminar, the course will rely heavily on discussion. Students will propose individual research projects allowing a detailed focus on key texts and questions. Advance preparation in the form of careful reading of the assigned literary and critical texts is essential.

**Prerequisites:** One full-course equivalent in English at the 400 level, or consent of the Department.

**Texts and readings (the readings will be studied in this order):**

Ali, Monica, *Brick Lane*

Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*

Peter Ackroyd, *Dan Leno And The Limehouse Golem/ The Trial of Elizabeth Cree* (if available; if not, another novel by Ackroyd will be substituted)

Ian Sinclair, *Downriver*

A detailed list of critical readings will be provided in the Course Syllabus. If you wish to make start on thinking about literary representations of cities, I recommend you take a look at the following two sources available in electronic form, via the University Library catalogue:

Freeman, Nicholas. *Conceiving the city: London, literature, and art 1870-1914*. Oxford University Press, 2007.

Lehan, Richard. *The city in literature: an intellectual and cultural history*. University of California Press, 1998.

For a general sense of the real London's immense and dramatic history, the relevant sections of Peter Ackroyd's non-fiction book *London: The Biography* are useful.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Review of a critical article	15%
First short essay	25%
Proposal for research essay	20%
Research essay	40%

**There is no Registrar scheduled exam in this course.**

**Important Note:** You must submit all of the assignments to receive a passing grade. Please make all efforts to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and put it in the dropbox, where your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. Please keep a copy of your essay in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

**The following grading system is used in this course.**

Letter	Percent	Grade Point			
A+	90% or above	4.0			
A	85-90%	4.0	C	64-66%	2.0
A-	80-84%	3.7	C-	60-63%	1.7
B+	77-79%	3.3	D+	55-59%	1.3
B	74-76%	3.0	D	50-54%	1.0
B-	70-73%	2.7	F	below 50%	0
C+	67-69%	2.3			

**Late assignment policy:**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a third of grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Please note that you are responsible for ensuring that computer problems do not interfere with timely submission of work. Keep multiple backups of all your work, at different locations. Computer issues will not be an acceptable reason for later submission.

**E-mail and electronic submissions policy:** I am happy to reply to short, specific questions via e-mail, and will answer as promptly as possible. However I cannot guarantee that you will have a reply within any specific amount of time. Please keep in mind that email correspondence will not be used as a

substitute for discussions in class or during office hours. *Essays and course work must be submitted on the due date, in printed form, unless other specific arrangements have been made. In particular, submitting work by e-mail without prior agreement is not an acceptable alternative to handing in work on time, in class.*

\*\*\*Please include “ENGL519” in the subject line of any email you send. Sometimes student e-mail gets “spam-filtered” and this allows me to check whether any course mail has been sent to the “junk” mailbox. For some reason Hotmail addresses in particular are likely to be filtered by the U of C system.

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**Classroom activities are subject to copyright** and may not be recorded by any means without written agreement.

**Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

**Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events. <http://english.ucalgary.ca/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is [smrwc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:smrwc@ucalgary.ca).

**English Department Website:**For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>.

**Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**



**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.” <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:** Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Academic accommodation:**

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:**

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## **PLAGIARISM**

*Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.*

The University *Calendar* states:

1. **Plagiarism** - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University *Calendar*, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.