

# The History of London

ILACA Fall 2007 - Tues 1.30 to 2.30 pm; Thurs 1.30 to 3.30 pm  
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## Course Overview

The course proceeds chronologically through the history of London, from its Roman foundations to the impact of the Blitz in the middle of the 20th century. Cities are entirely human constructs, and we will not only trace the physical growth of the city over some 2000 years, but see how the pattern of that growth reflects the social conditions of the time. The main reading is of primary sources, to hear the voices of Londoners through the ages.

All Tuesday classes and a few Thursday classes will be held in the classroom. These sessions will consist of informal lecture, analysis of the maps and diagrams in the atlas (*The Times History of London*), and discussion of the Sourcebook readings. Further background reading can be found in the London Readings. Please bring the atlas and Sourcebook for every classroom session. Most Thursday classes will be for walks. We will meet just beyond the barrier at the designated underground station, where I will hand out a walk itinerary. You will probably also want to bring a small notebook. Be on time: the walks depart promptly! The walks also take place whatever the weather conditions, so be prepared. All rules applicable to the classroom apply to our walks: no smoking and no mobile phones from the moment we set off from our meeting point!

**Course texts**            Hugh Clout, ed., *The Times History of London* (London: Times Books, any edition)  
                                 L. M. Bowers Isaacson, ed., *Sourcebook on London* [photocopy]  
                                 L. M. Bowers Isaacson, ed., *London Readings* at <http://homepage.mac.com/lisabi/FileSharing2.html>

## Course Requirements

- . To prepare for, attend and participate in classes and walks
- . To visit two museums outside class time, in preparation for exams: the Museum of London before the midterm and the Geffrye Museum before the final (free admission to each)
- . To produce two paper/projects(see below)
- . To present evidence of understanding and reflection on the course issues and materials through satisfactory performance on two exams: a midterm and a final exam

Museum Visits: There will be a question on the midterm and final exams that will require you to describe and interpret objects you have seen in these museums. The Museum of London [London Wall EC1] is extraordinary, providing a chronological journey through the City's history making use of reconstructions and artifacts. At the moment the lower ground floor, covering the period after the Great Fire in 1666 is closed for refurbishment, but the main floor, covering the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, Tudor and early Stuart periods is open. Thus you will need to visit this before the midterm to select your artifacts. The museum's entrance is not at street level, but on the podium, one storey up. The nearest underground stations are St Paul's and Barbican.

For the final exam you will be visiting another of London's great museums, the Geffrye Museum (open Tues thru Sat), housed in an 18th-century almshouse at 136 Kingsland Road E2. (Nearest underground: Old Street or Liverpool Street.) It is a museum of domestic interiors covering the period 1600 to the present. All but the very first room (early 17th century) is therefore relevant.

Further particulars will be given nearer the exams.

**Stow Ward Walk Paper/Project:** John Stow, a contemporary of Shakespeare, wrote a guidebook to London which offers a unique opportunity to study in detail the transformation of London from a medieval city to its present form. Each student will explore a neighbourhood [ward] of the City of London using Stow as a guidebook. The selection, together with relevant maps, will be provided. The final product will be 3 to 5 pages assessing to what degree the medieval city has survived into the 21st century. Due date: Thursday, 4 October.

**'Inside London' Walk Project:** This is your chance to plan a walk in London to illustrate some topic of interest to you. It might be a particular ethnic community, a 'village' within London, or the London connected with a particular historical figure. The final product will be 5 to 7 pages of narrative and analysis, plus a map showing the locations. Photos and other illustrations may also be added. Due date: Tuesday, 4 December.

## Basis of Course grade

Class participation*	10%	Stow project	15%
Midterm exam	20%	'Inside London' project	25%
Final exam	30%		

\*It is assumed that a student will be on time for all classes, including walks. Absences and persistent lateness will be noted and the final grade reduced accordingly. Discretion may be exercised in the case of illness.

## Schedule of Classes

### Thursday, 6 September

Lecture/discussion: Roman Origins  
Reading: Sourcebook, Ch I: Londinium: the Roman City (in class)

### Tues 11 September

Lecture/ discussion: Two Saxon Settlements  
Reading: Sourcebook, Ch 2: Saxon London; Times [atlas], pp. 23-43; 138-9; 154-5. Readings, Sections 1 & 2.

### Thurs 13 September

Walk: The Roman Wall: 'reading' the past in the modern City Meet just through barriers at Tower Hill tube Station

**Tues 18 September**

Lecture: Medieval Urban Society  
Reading: Times [atlas], pp. 44–53; 152–3. Readings, Section 3.

**Thurs 20 September**

Walk: Medieval Westminster; Meet just through barriers at Westminster Underground Station  
Introduce Stow Paper/Project Assignment

**Tues 25 September**

Discussion: Medieval Urban Society  
Reading: Sourcebook, Ch 3: Medieval London; Times [atlas], pp. 44–53; 152–3.

**Thurs 27 September**

Walk: Church and Guild: the landscape of the medieval city  
Meet just through barriers at Farringdon Underground Station

**Tues 2 October**

Lecture/ discussion: Impact of the Reformation  
Reading: Sourcebook, Ch 4: Reformation in the City; Times [atlas], pp. 54–65; 146–7. Readings, Section 4.

**Thurs 4 October**

Walk: Legal London and the Inns of Court; Meet just through barriers at Temple Underground Station  
Stow Paper Due

**Tues 9 October**

Lecture/ discussion: The City Destroyed by Plague and Fire  
Reading: Sourcebook, Ch 5: The Great Plague & the Great Fire; Times [atlas], pp. 66–9; 132–3; 168–9. Readings, Section 5.

**Thurs 11 October**

Midterm Exam; Introduce 'Inside London' Project

—MIDTERM BREAK—

**Tues 23 October**

Lecture: The Growth of the West End in the 17th and 18th centuries  
Reading: Times [atlas], pp. 70–81; 140–3. Readings, Section 6.

**Thurs 25 October**

Walk: St James's and the 18th-Century Squares  
Meet just through barriers at St James's Park Underground Station (Broadway Exit)

**Tues 30 October**

Discussion: The Growth of the West End in the 17th and 18th centuries  
Reading: Sourcebook, Ch 6: Life in the Georgian City

**Thurs 1 November** NO CLASS: Stratford trip**Tues 6 November**

Lecture: Poverty and Wealth in Victorian London  
Reading: Times [atlas], pp. 82–9; 92–107; 134–7; 144–5; 148–9. Readings, Section 7.

**Thurs 8 November**

Walk: East End Poverty and the Furniture Sweatshops  
Meet just through barriers at Old Street Underground Station

**Tues 13 November**

Discussion: Poverty and Wealth in Victorian London  
Reading: Sourcebook, Ch 7: The Victorian East End; Times [atlas], pp. 82–9; 92–107; 134–7; 144–5; 148–9.

**Thurs 15 November**

Walk: Victorian Village Suburb; Meet just through barriers at Hampstead Underground Station (Zone 2)

**Tues 20 November**

Lecture: The Growth of the Suburbs before the First World War  
Reading: Times [atlas], pp. 90–1; 108–17; 160–1. Readings, Sections 8 & 9.

**Thurs 22 November** NO CLASS: Thanksgiving**Tues 27 November**

Discussion: The Growth of the Suburbs before the First World War  
Reading: Sourcebook, Ch 8: Imperial Capital & Ch 9: Transport & the Rise of the Suburbs; Times [atlas], pp. 90–1; 108–17; 160–1.

**Thurs 29 November**

Paper/Project work & consultations.

**Tues 4 December**

Lecture/discussion: The Blitz and its Aftermath: London in the Second World War  
Reading: Sourcebook, Ch 10: London at War; Times [atlas], pp. 23–43; 138–9; 154–5. Readings, Section 10.  
'Inside London' Project Due.

**Thurs 6 December**

Final Exam