

English 499A: Crime and Justice in the City of London

Summer 2024

London, UK



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Office: Regular Classroom Space

Office Hours: Thursday 6 June, then Wednesdays 2:30-3:30

Course Description

In an effort to deter crime, London is one of the most surveilled cities in the world, with estimates as high as 1 CCTV camera for every 10 people. In the context of the current popularity of true crime and crime dramas, this course will examine a range of literature related to London's criminal history and its detectives—both real and fictional.

The study of these literary works and our direct explorations of London will help us investigate several key questions. What is it about crime and detective stories that so many of us find fascinating? What are the social and cultural consequences of our fascination with crime? How have high profile true crimes—like the Jack the Ripper killings—impacted the city's culture? What makes the urban environment of London such a fitting setting for crime fiction? Our readings will be sited in London's actual geography and history as we visit locations from the books and films we will analyze, dealing with London's history of violence and criminal justice.

Required Books and Materials

Required:

- Shakespeare, William. [*Richard III*](#). Edited by Thomas Cartelli, Norton Critical Editions, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-393-92959-1.
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. [*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*](#). 3rd ed., edited by Martin A. Danahay, Broadview Press, 2015. ISBN: 9781554810246.
- Unsworth, Cathi. [*Bad Penny Blues*](#). Strange Attractor Press, 2021. ISBN: 9781907222191.
- [UK Power Adapter](#).

Strongly Recommended:

- [*London A-Z Pocket Atlas*](#). 12th ed., HarperCollins UK, 2023. ISBN: 9780008581770.

Assignments and Grading

Assignment	Percentage
Destination Response	15%
Theatre Response	15%
Reading Response	15%
Term Paper Proposal	5%
Term Paper	30%
Participation	20%
Total	100%

All assignments have deadlines listed on the schedule, but you can complete any of the response papers earlier, if you'd like. Perhaps you really enjoy something we read, do, or see early in the trip and want to write about that. Perhaps you want to get those assignments out of the way so you can enjoy the rest of the trip without worrying about them.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and trip activities. If, for some reason, you cannot attend a class or activity (e.g., due to illness), you must notify Katy and I *immediately*. Depending upon the situation, we will determine an individual course of action as far as keeping you on track for the course and any grade penalties that may be necessary.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University's Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

Academic integrity includes a commitment by all members of the University community not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.

You must complete this work entirely on your own. You may not assist other students or use any online sites (e.g., Course Hero or Chegg), technologies (e.g., ChatGPT, language translators), tools, or sources that are prohibited.

Accessibility: Disability Accommodation

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. The Student Disability Resources Web site provides contact information for every Penn State campus (equity.psu.edu/student-disability-resources). For further information, please visit the Student Disability Resources website at equity.psu.edu/sdr.

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation (equity.psu.edu/student-disability-resources/applying-for-services). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your [campus's disability services office](#) will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.

Education Equity: Affirmative Action

Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated and can be reported through Educational Equity via the [Report Bias webpage](https://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/) (equity.psu.edu/reportbias/).

Counseling and Psychological Services

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): 814-863-395,
 - <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling>
- Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400
- Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741

Standards of Classroom/Study Abroad Behavior

Classroom behavior should always reflect the essential Penn State values of civility, integrity, and respect for the dignity and rights of others. As such, the classroom space should be safe, orderly, and positive—free from disruptions, disorderly conduct, and harassment as defined in the University Code of Conduct (<https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/student-accountability/code-procedures/student-code-conduct>). The University Code of Conduct defines disruption “as an action or combination of actions by one or more individuals that unreasonably interferes with, hinders, obstructs, or prevents the operation of the University or infringes on the rights of others to freely participate in its programs and services;” disorderly conduct includes but is not limited to “creating unreasonable noise; pushing and shoving; creating a physically hazardous or physically offensive condition;” and harassment may include “directing physical or verbal conduct at an individual...; subjecting a person or group of persons to unwanted physical contact or threat of such; or engaging in a course of conduct, including following the person without proper authority (e.g., stalking), under circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or to suffer emotional distress” (Section IV, B). The course instructor has the authority to request that any disruptive students leave the class for the class period. If disruptive behavior continues in subsequent class periods, a complaint may be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which may result in the student being dismissed from class until University procedures have been completed. Any student with concerns or questions as to this policy should contact the Director of the Program in Writing and Rhetoric.

Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change by me. I will notify you ahead of time in class and/or by email of any changes.

- Dates and times of 499A class meetings are listed in black. Please be prepared to discuss whatever course material is listed on the schedule for that day.
- **Dates and times of non-class activities are listed in red. Please be aware that the times listed for activities are the start and end times for those activities themselves—this does not include travel times. Please pay attention to when and where we will meet for these activities.**
- Unless otherwise stated (i.e., for the Term Paper deadline) all times are given in Greenwich Mean Time—London’s time zone.

Week 1: 3-8 June

Date and Time	Activity
Monday 3 June	Students arrive in London
Monday 3 June	EF Tours Orientation
Monday 3 June, 5PM	Welcome dinner The Banana Tree SoHo
Tuesday 4 June, 9-11ishAM	EF Tours Guided Introduction
Tuesday 4 June, 1-2:45PM	First 499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Course Goals • Introduce Destination Response and Reading Response assignments • Discuss excerpt from Michel Foucault’s <i>Discipline & Punish</i> (available on Canvas) and surveillance
Wednesday 5 June, 2:45PM	Sherlock Holmes Museum visit
Wednesday 5 June, 9-10:15AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s “The Red-Headed League” (available on Canvas) and detective fiction • Drafting a literature thesis
Thursday 6 June, 9-11AM	499 A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s “Checking Out” (available on Canvas) • Crash course on reading Shakespeare
Friday 7 June, 3:45PM	Globe Theatre Tour
Friday 7 June, 9-10:15AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Theatre Response assignment • Discuss British music and law/crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Billy Bragg’s “Which Side Are You On?” and “Never Cross A Picket Line” ○ The Sex Pistols’ “Anarchy in the UK”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Clash's "White Riot" ○ Eddy Grant's "Electric Avenue" ○ Stormzy's "Shut Up" ○ Skepta's "Shutdown"
Saturday 8 June, 7:30PM	<i>Richard III</i> at the Globe

Week 2: 10-15 June

Date and Time	Activity
Monday 10 June, 10AM	Tower of London tour
Monday 10 June, 1-2:45PM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss William Shakespeare's <i>Richard III</i>, Act 1 • Discuss Globe performance of <i>Richard III</i> • Discuss Katherine Schaap Williams' "Performing Disability and Theorizing Deformity" (available on Canvas)
Tuesday 11 June, 9-11AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>Richard III</i>, Act 2 & 3 • Drafting a scholarly paragraph
Wednesday 12 June, 9-11AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>Richard III</i>, Act 4 & 5 • Discuss William Richardson's <i>From</i> Essay I: On the Dramatic Character of King Richard Third (available in Norton Critical Edition) • Discuss Edward Dowden's <i>From</i> The English Historical Plays: <i>King Richard III</i> (available in Norton Critical Edition)
Thursday 13 June, 9-11AM	499 A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>Richard III</i>, entire play

Week 3: 16-20 June

Date and Time	Activity
Sunday 16 June, Train from London at 8:25AM; SHH at 11:30AM; train from Twickenham at 6:30PM	Day trip to Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham
Monday 17 June, 9-11AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Robert Louis Stevenson's <i>Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i>, pp. 33-59 ("Story of the Door" to "The Last Night") • Introduce Term Paper Proposal and Term Paper assignments
Tuesday 18 June, 9-11AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i>, entire novella
Tuesday 18 June,	Jack the Ripper tour

2-3PM	
Wednesday 19 June, 9-11AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> and Jack the Ripper (Appendix J in Broadview edition) • Discuss <i>Buzzfeed Unsolved's</i> "The Grisly Murders of Jack the Ripper" (available on Canvas) • Research in the library databases
Thursday 20 June, 9-10:30AM	499 A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Richard Mansfield and T.R. Sullivan's Stage Version of <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> (Appendix G in Broadview edition) • MLA Citations
Thursday 20 June, 7:30PM	<i>The Mousetrap</i>
Friday 21 June, 11:59PM	*Reading Response assignment due by 11:59PM

Week 4: 24-27 June

Date and Time	Activity
Monday 24 June, 1-2:15PM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>The Mousetrap</i>
Monday 24 June, 11:59PM	*Term Paper Proposal due by 11:59PM
Tuesday 25 June, 9-11AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Cathi Unsworth's <i>Bad Penny Blues</i>, Part One: "With This Kiss"
Tuesday 25 June, 4PM	(Optional) London Bridge Experience
Tuesday 25 June, 11:59PM	*Theatre Response assignment due by 11:59PM
Wednesday 26 June, 9-11AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>Bad Penny Blues</i>, Part Two: "Night of the Vampire"
Thursday 27 June,	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss <i>Bad Penny Blues</i>, entire novel
Thursday 27 June, 2:15PM	Keats House
Friday 28 June, 11:59PM	*Destination Response assignment due by 11:59PM

Week 5: 1-3 July

Date and Time	Activity
Monday 1 July, 9AM	Day trip to Bath
Tuesday 2 July, 9-11AM	499A class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review Term Papers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap up the semester • Final reflections on London
Tuesday 2 July, 6PM	Farewell dinner Mother Mash
Wednesday 3 July	Leave London
Monday 8 July, 11:59PM Eastern	*Term Paper assignment due by 11:59PM Eastern