

F200 Foreign Study in London—Spring Break 2004
Instructor Karla Farmer Stouse

London is a bad habit one hates to lose.

William Sansom

Required text: *Notes from a Small Island*, Bill Bryson
Additional materials: *84 Charing Cross Road* (movie), book by Helene Hanff; *The Story of English*, McCrum, Cran, and MacNeil

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to give you the opportunity to learn a bit about British culture, history, and language first hand. It is hoped you will discover that the birthplace of our country is much more than its stereotypes and that, though we have much in common with the British, there are also many fascinating differences to appreciate. It is also hoped that this introduction to a foreign land will encourage you to seek additional foreign learning opportunities.

Class Activities and Assignments

Prior to our departure, we will meet as a group to discuss the text and to begin examining language differences. You will also be given a historical research assignment to complete before we leave. In London, we will observe and participate in several events: a theatrical performance, historical tours, cultural events, and a comparative presentation of the differences between British and American language. These events are mandatory and will involve reflective writing as well as discussion. Upon our return, we will meet for final presentations.

Reflective writings 10 @ 10 points each	100 points
Historical research/brief presentation	25 points
Discussion leading	25 points
Presentation	200 points
Final	50 points

Grading: 90-100% = A range
80-89% = B range
70-79% = C range
60-69% = D range

(The top two percent of each range will receive a + grade ; the bottom two percent will receive a – grade.)

What Happens When

Friday, 3/5

Meet for double session of class—begin text discussion; discuss origins of British words and phrases with Americanized counterparts (take the language quiz); the concept of class demonstrated by region, occupation, and language (introduce Cockney rhyming slang, etc.)

Reflective Writing #1: What do you think caused the changes in word meanings? Discuss your favorite and create a theory as to how the word evolved into the Americanized form.

Assignment: Select historical era to research prior to departure. Finish reading text.

Saturday, 3/13 LONDON

Walking tour of London—note word differences and customs during the journey

Visit Portobello Road Market—observe language of stall keepers vs. customers, locals vs. tourists—collect new British words

Reflective Writing #2: Based on what you observed and heard in the city and at the market, which factor (social class, occupation, or region) do you think most typically determines the language choices? Use as many examples as you can to clarify your answer.

Sunday, 3/14

Present historical research of eras; lines of succession and views about royalty

Visit the Tower of London and the British Museum

Reflective Writing #3: Based on what you learned about its past, if the Tower and the British Museum were the only places you visited in England, what would be your impression about British society in general? Why?

Monday, 3/15

Morning—Discuss text and British table manners and food traditions

Afternoon--Tea at Brown's Hotel

Evening—Jack the Ripper Walk (guided tour)

Reflective Writing #4: Compare a British food tradition to a similar American one. Which do you prefer? How do such traditions get created, and how do they shape a culture?

Tuesday, 3/16

Tour of the Globe and the Rose

Reflective Writing #5: Though we're aware of Shakespeare's works, relatively few Americans are avid fans. Why do you think this one writer has had such an influence on Western literature, especially in America?

Wednesday, 3/17

Discuss the societal importance of the British garden

Visit Kew Gardens

Visit Syon House or Windsor Castle

**Happy
St. Patrick's Day!**

Reflective Writing #6: It has been said that England is a nation of gardeners. If that is true, what do you think that indicates about the British people? Discuss the evidence you've seen to validate your answer.

Thursday, 3/18

Discuss the paradoxes you've observed...

Scavenger hunt for language, history, and culture

Evening—London Eye?

Reflective Writing #7: Note various paradoxes that you have observed (language, culture, class, etc.). What has seemed odd or out of place? How would you explain those items?

Friday, 3/19

Presentation previews—discuss findings from scavenger hunt

Reflective Writing #8: What was the most interesting thing you found? What made it interesting to you?

Saturday, 3/20

Reflective Writing #9: What is the most important thing you've learned?

TBA

Final, presentations, and final reflective writing

