Instructor(s): Richard Maguire
Email: maguirer@arcadia.edu
Course Title: Sex, Gender and the City
Course Code: LONS LISG 3205
Subject: Literature, Sociology
Credits: 3
Semester/Term: ☒ Summer

Course Description: Contemporary London is a vibrant world city with a range of overlapping and divergent subcultures. Like all cities, it has its own erotics and its own sexual spatial politics. From the swinging 60s to the present, this course examines contemporary literary London through the lens of sexuality, teasing out different representations of the city and its varied people and exploring a range of topics in contemporary gender and sexuality studies. Among the themes this course will consider are: the impact of feminism and 1960s sexual liberation; the impact of AIDS and the politics of sexuality in the 1980s; the ways ethnic communities are challenged by shifting notions of sex and gender; the crisis of masculinity in the 1990s.

Authors will include J.G. Ballard, Luke Sutherland, Sarah Waters, Andrea Levy and playwrights Joe Orton and Simon Stephens. Reading these writers’ London texts alongside theorists of sexuality and gender (e.g. Judith Butler) we’ll discover how the urban environment manipulates, invents and re-invents sexual possibilities.

The course will be seminar-based, but will include some lectures, with emphasis on close textual analysis and student-led discussion. Students will be expected to read the set novels and other texts in preparation for each week’s seminar and contribute their ideas, and hopefully their own London experiences, to the group discussions. There will be film screenings of London films such as Stephen Frears’ My Beautiful Laundrette (with a screenplay by Hanif Kureishi) and Prick Up Your Ears. As these films are integral to a knowledge of the sexuality of London and its citizens these screenings will be compulsory events.
### Course Requirements:

**Required Text**
- J.G. Ballard (1975) High Rise. **ISBN:** 0393340465; **Cost:** To Be Determined.
- Joe Orton (1964), Entertaining Mr. Sloane. **ISBN:** 0413413403; **Cost:** To Be Determined.
- *NB both Stephen’s plays can be found in Simon Stephens Plays: 2 (2009), Bloomsbury Methuen Drama. **ISBN:** 1408113910; **Cost:** To Be Determined.
- Sarah Walters (1998) Tipping The Velvet. **ISBN:** 1573227889; **Cost:** To Be Determined.

**Films**
Antonioni, Blow Up; Frears, My Beautiful Laundrette and Prick Up Your Ears; Gavron, Brick Lane. BBC adaptations, Tipping the Velvet; Buddha of Suburbia, Cronenberg, Crash.

### Assignments

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<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Oral Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. London log book</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>3. Midterm essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>4. Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Oral presentation**
Students will be expected to give one 10 minute presentation on one of the themes or texts from the course. All students should participate in class discussions.
London Log Book
Students should keep a diary of their experience of the city attempting to introduce the course’s themes in their entries. This can also be in the form of a scrap-book.

Mid-Term Essay: Students will write a 2,000 word essay choosing to answer one question from a selection of five. All essays must be referenced and presented correctly. The essays should exhibit evidence of further reading.

Exam
A two and a half hour exam in which students demonstrate their knowledge of the texts from the course and knowledge of the theories studied in the seminars

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies:</th>
<th>On completion of the course, students should be able to:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Outcomes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. List and describe some contemporary literature of London.</td>
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<td>2. Discuss and demonstrate the different ways gender and sexuality have been imagined in the literature of London.</td>
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<td>4. Analyze the ways class and face impact on discussion of gender and sexuality in London.</td>
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<td>5. Examine the different ways of walking within the city.</td>
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Course Outline:

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction and The Swinging 60s</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joe Orton, Entertaining Mr. Sloane</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orton, The Orton Diaries (1989)</td>
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<td><strong>Film:</strong> Entertaining Mr Sloane</td>
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<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dystopia in the 1970s</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>J.G. Ballard, High Rise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Selections from Le Corbusier (coursepack)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Art of Gilbert and George (video)</td>
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| Session 3 | The Vertical City  
Ballard, High Rise continued  
Ballard short stories, ‘Concentration City’ and ;The Subliminal Man’ (coursepack)  
**Film:** Kureishi, My Beautiful Laundrette (dir. Frears) |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 4 | Multi-Cultural London  
Levy, Every Light in the House Burnin’ and continue discussion of My Beautiful Laundrette  
Extract from Sukhdev Sandhu (2004), London Calling (coursepack) |
| Session 5 | Diasporic London  
Levy, Every Light in the House Burnin’ discussion continued  
Selected Diasporic poetry of London: Monica Alvi and Grace Nichols (coursepack)  
**Film:** Brick Lane |
| Session 6 | Queer City  
Mid-Term London Log Books presentations  
Luke Sutherland, Venus as A Boy  
Extract from Derek Jarman (1993) At Your Own Risk  
**Vintage:** London (coursepack) |
| Session 7 | Visit to Tate Modern or Tate Britain  
In particular, we will look at the following artists: Gilbert and George; Tracy Emin; Sarah Lucas; Grayson Perry |
| Session 8 | Queer London II  
Sutherland, Venus as a Boy (continued)  
| Session 9 | Sexual Terrorism  
Extract from Martin Amis (1995) The Information (coursepack) |
| Session 10 | Performing Gender  
Extract from Judith Halberstam (2005), In a Queer Time and Place (Coursepack)  
**Film:** Extract from : Austin Powers |
| Session 11 | Playing with/in History  
Sarah Waters, Tipping the Velvet  
Extract from Baudelaire (1863) ‘The Painter of Modern Life’ (available online)  
Film: BBC adaptation of Tipping the Velvet |
|---|---|
| Session 12 | Walking The City  
Waters, Tipping The Velvet (continued)  
Exam Preparation  
Walk in London streets |
| Session 13 | Exam |

**Other Policies:**

**Expectations**
Professional behavior is expected of all students. This includes preparation for classes, on-time and complete attendance at classes, attendance at all group sessions and appropriate participation in the form of attentiveness and contributions to the course. Respect for the academic process is the major guiding principle for professional behavior and extends to all communications, including e-mail.

**Attendance/Participation**
Prompt attendance, full preparation, and active participation in class discussions are expected from every student in every class session.

**Course Policies**
For e-mail communications, students must use their Arcadia University e-mail account. Students are responsible for any information provided by e-mail or through Intranet postings.

**Plagiarism**
Is representation of another’s work or ideas as one’s own in academic submissions is plagiarism, and cause for disciplinary action. Cheating is actual or attempted use of resources not authorized by the instructor(s) for academic submissions. Students caught cheating in this course will receive a failing grade. Fabrication is the falsification or creation of data, research or resources to support academic submissions, and cause for disciplinary action.

**Late or missed assignments**
Will not be accepted for grading.
### Students with disabilities
Persons with documented disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should make these requests while enrolling into the program, and before traveling overseas so that appropriate arrangements are in place.

### Classroom Etiquette
Eating is not permitted in any classrooms. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

| Prerequisites: | None |