

Course Descriptions & Bios, London 2024

Anne Belden

Santa Rosa Junior College

The journalism bug infected Anne Belden in college when she experimented with radio news at UC Santa Cruz and then print at UCLA. After nearly two decades as a writer and editor for newspapers and magazines, she took over the helm of Santa Rosa Junior College's journalism program in 2006. She teaches the primary journalism courses and advises The Oak Leaf News staff, who publish a website, magazine and social media sites.

Anne received her undergraduate degree in mass communication from UCLA and a master's degree in media studies from Stanford University. In October, she published her first book, "Inflamed: Abandonment, Heroism, and Outrage in Wine Country's Deadliest Firestorm" about the botched evacuations at two senior care communities during the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa.

Anne's travels have taken her to 34 states, Canada, The Bahamas, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Guyana, Chile, Madagascar, South Africa and several European countries. Yet she has always been drawn to London. Although Anne was slated to teach in Florence in 2021 — a trip cancelled by the pandemic — London was always her first choice. She is excited to teach journalism and mass communication in such a vibrant city and global information hub.

JOUR 2: News Gathering and News Writing

3 units, CSU/UC transferable. Grade or P/NP.

What better place to learn about producing content for print and online media than London, the home of the BBC, Fleet Street and tabloid journalism. Build your skills in news, opinion and entertainment review writing, and learn how to report and produce multimedia feature stories – all while you explore and deepen your knowledge of London, engage with students and area residents, visit the city's arts and entertainment scene and explore social issues facing Londoners. No previous journalism experience is required.

JOUR 52A: News Media Practice

3 units, CSU transferable. Grade only.

Enhance your skills in writing, editing, photography, video production, podcasting and social media content creation as we produce "The London Branch" of The Oak Leaf News. You will publish articles, videos and podcasts to TheOakleafnews.com and affiliated social media sites on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok. Record your life-changing London experiences as you research, write or produce news, feature, sports, opinion, personal experience and arts and entertainment stories related to Study

Abroad students or London life in general. No previous journalism experience is required but taking Journalism 2 simultaneously will be to your advantage.

MEDIA 4: Intro to Mass Communication

3 units, CSU/UC transferable. Grade or P/NP.

This class will give you an overview of the history, structure, function and influence of print, electronic and digital media — with a London twist. We won't only study how Americans engage with mass media but how the British use it as well. Among the varied assignments, you will evaluate the overt and covert messages in British and American mass media; attend part of the London Film Festival; study the history of and cultural differences between American, British and global journalism; examine London's tabloid culture; compare and contrast advertising content between England and America, and observe how the U.S. presidential election is portrayed in British news.

Greg Beyrer

Los Rios Community College District

I am the distance education coordinator and a professor of history at Cosumnes River College, and I am eager to spend a semester with you in London. In my history classes (including American history) I like to bring a global point of view. This is helped by my international travels, which include a summer spent wandering across Europe. I remember seeing the living remnants of times long past and feeling wonder as I walked the same roads and paths that others have been walking for hundreds or thousands of years.

History is an interpretive discipline, which means there are an endless number of stories from the past. Our journey will be filled with delight as we learn about the experiences of the many peoples whose actions and interactions made their world and echo through time to inform our lives today. Each of us brings a unique perspective to the study of the past, informed by the material we work with, our own identities, and the environment where we are learning. You too are a scholar of history, and in our classes we will together discover what points of view emerge from being historians in London.

What will you discover?

HIST 302: History of Europe Since 1500

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

Until August 1, 2024, this course will be called "History of Western Civilization." We'll talk about this change as we learn about the past 500 years in Europe. We will explore the concept of "Western Civilization," which will be more interesting because we will be in a location that was not even part of "the West" before the people who lived there came to consider themselves the center of "the West."

Our class is a survey of European history from the sixteenth century to the present, emphasizing the interplay of social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual forces. Those forces were often indigenous to the continent but also involved global interactions in which Europe influenced and was concurrently influenced by the broader world.

HIST 310: History of the United States (to 1877)

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

Learning American history from London presents us with a special opportunity. The people who have lived in and governed from this place have had an outsized influence on the American past. For the first half of American history, this influence includes sea voyages of discovery and conquest, the creation of a new economic system in capitalism, and the emergence of an ideology focused on individual freedom. Our class will survey United States history from its European, African, and Native American backgrounds to 1877. It examines the origin and development of many of this nation's political, social, economic, and intellectual institutions including their influences upon contemporary American life. It also emphasizes such historical concepts as cause and effect, multiple causation, historical context, and historical interpretation.

HIST 311: History of the United States (1865 – Present)

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

Learning American history from London presents us with a special opportunity. The people who have lived in and governed from this place have had an outsized influence on the American past. For the second half of American history, this influence includes models of global conquest, the expansion of suffrage and other civil rights, and how nations participate in a globalized world.

This course is a survey of United States History from 1865 to the present. It analyzes many of America's political, social, economic, and intellectual institutions, including their influences upon contemporary life. This course also examines this nation's increasing involvement in world affairs. These analyses are set within the context of such historical concepts as evidence, cause and effect, multiple causation, and historical interpretation.

Lindsey Ayotte

San Mateo County Community College District

Lindsey Ayotte is a Professor of Communication Studies at Skyline College. Lindsey holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from San Francisco State University and a Master of Arts in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Performance Studies from San Francisco State University. Lindsey is the current Director of Forensics: Speech and Debate Team at Skyline College. She believes that speech and debate allows students to develop public speaking and argumentative skills through the idea and practice of transformation through advocacy, creative expression and dialogue as students test ideas in conversation with communities outside their own. Lindsey has also served in various leadership roles at Skyline College. Lindsey truly believes that humor in the classroom is an important way to build community, because learning should and can be fun. When Lindsey is not in the classroom she is most likely hanging out with her family and friends. Most weekends consist of playing with her 6 year old daughter. Lindsey would describe herself as a passionate food enthusiast with a deep appreciation for diverse culinary experiences especially while traveling. In addition, she loves to spend time outdoors, camping, and swimming.

Message from Professor Ayotte to prospective students: My goal for students during the semester abroad is to continue thinking for yourself. I want students to leave my courses and this experience not thinking the same way as I or your peers think but to learn to be more aware of the information you consume in order to be true critical consumers of knowledge. Oftentimes we associate the word "critical" with negativity but in fact this does not have to be true. To be critical of something is to consider the multiple perspectives/outcomes/solutions that are possible, rather than participating in a two-sided conversation. My courses will push you sometimes out of your comfort zone and encourage you to re-think what it is that you know. You all are coming from a very specific social location in which you have already existed for the duration of your life so far and this is important! You shouldn't feel like you need to check who you are at the door, but rather embrace your differences. What makes my courses, (I would argue all communication studies courses, but I am biased) successful is your willingness to participate fully, take risks in self-disclosure, and respect what your peers share as we attempt to make sense of what learning and engaging in dialogue amongst differences of opinion in an international setting can be.

COMM 127: Argumentation and Debate

3 units, CSU/UC transferable, letter grade or P/NP

Catalog Description: Principles and techniques of argumentation and debate, including research in significant social problems and issues, analysis of propositions, evidence, inductive and deductive reasoning, and fallacies of language and thought. Training and practice in the presentation and evaluation of oral and written arguments.

Message from Instructor: Debate is an activity that happens on a global scale and understanding how to cater a message to a specific audience is important while attempting to persuade someone to do something. In this class our goal will be not only to improve your argumentation skills, but also to develop an understanding and appreciation of public advocacy in a democratic society. Since ancient Greek and Roman times, public speaking has been taught both as the foundation of a liberal education and as an essential skill of democratic citizenship. Whatever expertise or talents an individual may have, the ability to speak effectively in public remains fundamental to one's success, as a professional and as a citizen. In our increasingly complex and technologically sophisticated world, the ability to analyze problems from a variety of perspectives, and to inform, persuade, and motivate others is more important than ever. In order to develop an appreciation of the importance of argumentation in our personal, professional, and civic lives, this class will focus throughout the semester on actual, on-going political and social controversies in the UK. Students will begin to view argumentation not as one-way communication, but as part of a larger, on-going public dialogue.

COMM 150: Intercultural Communication

3 units, CSU/UC transferable, letter grade only

Catalog description: Study and practice of intercultural communication in domestic and global contexts. Examines the intersectionality of culture, power, identity, verbal and non-verbal communication to increase perceptual awareness and cultural competency. Students are expected to demonstrate and apply skills through individual and group oral presentations.

Message from Instructor: This course reframes intercultural communication through a power-based perspective that highlights how macro structures and forces (governmental, historical, economic, media, institutional forces) interrelate with micro-communication acts, encounters, and relationships between and within cultural groups. While students engage in the "outward" journey of exploring a new place and culture, they will also be encouraged to critically reflect on their "inward" journey (i.e. paying attention to their assumptions and biases, how and if their assumptions and biases are being challenged, and exploring the ways in which they are negotiating these tensions). Furthermore, this course will assist students to move beyond cultural 'constraints', barriers, and begin developing communication competence across cultures and cultural groups.

COMM 160: Gender Communication

3 units, CSU/UC transferable, letter grade or P/NP.

Catalog Description: Study of the relationship between gender and communication in multiple sociocultural contexts. Analysis of the intersectionality of gender and identity, culture, perception, power, media, history, language, and nonverbal communication from social science, interpretive, and critical theoretical approaches.

Message from Instructor: This course will not only look at theories and concepts related to the spectrum of gender, but also does the work of incorporating intercultural communication and interpersonal communication theories. Gender means different things in different parts of the world. Understanding, witnessing and applying theoretical frameworks from this course while studying abroad is imperative to one's understanding of gender construction.

Christian Morgan (he/him) Diablo Valley College Contra Costa Community College District

I fell in love with London the first time I traveled there. Its disparate peoples and cultures make London a rich melting pot. Everything about the city awed me. Its ancient history, its seemingly endless diversity, the schizophrenic architecture, the dusty tube stations, the charming pubs in neighborhoods off-the-beaten path, it's a city in which I always look forward to getting lost. I've traveled there more than any other European city since I began backpacking throughout Europe. I have always valued travel as a part of my education as a student, citizen, and teacher. As a result, I encourage all of my students to use part of their educational careers to travel to as much of the world as they can. Experiencing the cultures, art, geography, and lives of the people in communities other than our own has just as profound an impact on us as our classroom learning.

I began traveling outside the US in my college years, and London was the first European city I traveled to. Since then, I have been back many times, and every time I've learned new things about the city and its people. I traveled to London during my college years, then as a professional writer, and eventually as

a teacher. I have also traveled to Central and South America, Canada, Mexico, and all over Europe, nearly always with groups of students.

I have seen firsthand the impact and inspiration that travel has on students. From helping them navigate public transportation in a country whose language they don't speak to watching students become ambassadors of kindness, students who wish to connect and understand other communities outside their own become better members of the global community. The objective of any global studies program should be to put into real perspective the places, people, cultures we've seen and read about from afar to make us better global citizens. Like St. Louis is the gateway to the western US, or Istanbul is the Gateway to the East, London was my gateway to Europe and a genuine desire to travel and learn about the world and its people. I hope it will be the same for you.

ENGL 123, Critical Thinking: Writing about Literature *3 units, CSU/UC transferable.*

In this course, we'll be critically reading and writing about prose and poetry specific to England, its character and setting. George Orwell, W.G. Sebald, Kazuo Ishiguro, Philip Larkin, and Zadie Smith are a few of these artists. These writers will help us understand the political, social, cultural, and literal landscape of London and the UK following the end of WW II. The 2023-2024 DVC College Catalog describes ENGL 123 as "This course in advanced composition focuses on the analysis of literary texts, the development of logical reasoning, and the improvement of argumentative writing skills. It is designed to develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills beyond the level expected in ENGL-122 through the study of various critical approaches and diverse literary genres."

ENGL 154, Shakespeare and His World *3 units, CSU/UC transferable.*

Without Shakespeare, we wouldn't have the English language (as we know it). And, without London, we wouldn't have Shakespeare. Some of the plays we'll read are Twelfth Night, Richard III, Hamlet, and The Tempest. And, of course, we'll visit Shakespeare's Globe theatre on the south bank of the Thames. Like the river Thames as an elemental force in shaping the landscape of London, we'll gain a better understanding of Shakespeare's dominant influence on English. The 2023-2024 DVC College Catalog further describes this course as focusing "on the language, structure, characterization, and philosophy of a representative selection of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets within the framework of the historical, social, and artistic forces of the Elizabethan and Jacobean ages. The course will also examine Shakespeare's work not only as literature, but also as performance art in various media. Students will also practice the skills needed for analyzing and writing about literature."

ENGL 177, Children's Literature *3 units, CSU/UC transferable.*

Every person's love of literature begins with children's literature: picture books and then chapter books. What more wonderful place to explore children's literature than in the home of Winnie-the-Pooh, Babar the Elephant, and Paddington Bear? We'll explore picture books and chapter books from around the world with a special emphasis on English writers. Through this course, we'll analyze literature in a variety of genres and through the different literary lenses that blends the written word, oral tradition, and pictures to tell stories and teach lessons. According to the 2023-2024 DVC College Catalog, "This course is a survey of children's literature of different literary genres. It places children's literature in an historical context, tracing its development from earliest oral origins to the present. The course examines children's literature from various time periods and geographical and cultural points of reference.

Additionally, this course will analyze the ways historical, social, psychological, philosophical, and aesthetic forces shape children's literature. The distinguishing elements of different literary genres and methods used to analyze literature of any genre will also be covered."