

Courses & Bios, London Fall 2020

Anne Marie Insull

Santa Rosa Junior College

Anne Marie earned her B.A. in English at St. Mary's College and her California Teaching Credential at UC Berkeley. She completed her M.A. in English Literature at Sonoma State University, where her studies focused on British women novelists of the nineteenth- and early-twentieth centuries. She has been teaching at Santa Rosa Junior College for sixteen years.

Before becoming a college instructor, she was a secondary school teacher in Surrey, England; and then a teacher in several Bay Area high schools. In addition, she has been a long-time English and Creative Writing instructor at the Sonoma County Jail.

Much of her recent travel has been to South and Central America and to Spain -- as both a tourist and as a Spanish-language student. Now, she is thrilled to be returning to her previous and much-loved home, England. She cannot wait to share her love of British literature and culture with her students in one of the world's most wonderful cities, London!

ENGL 1B: Literature and Composition

3 units, CSU/UC transferable. Grade only.

The prerequisite for this course is a passing grade in English 1A or the equivalent (College Composition).

This course will focus on works from five major genres of literature (drama, short story, poetry, and the novel), all of which will be either by London authors or related in some way to London itself. Our study of writers such as William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Wilfred Owen, Virginia Woolf, and Zadie Smith will be accompanied by corresponding visits to London locations such as the National Portrait Gallery, The London Museum, Shakespeare's Globe Theater, The Imperial War Museum, The British Library, Kew Gardens, and various walking tours.

ENGL 3: Introduction to Poetry

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

The prerequisite for this course is a passing grade in English 1A or the equivalent (College Composition).

This course offers students the opportunity to study what makes poems work, why they are valued, and how to analyze and appreciate their content and form.

Beginning with the medieval period and ending in the present day, most of the poems in English 3 will be associated in some way with specific locations in London. Geoffrey Chaucer, for example, writes about The Tabard Inn in Southwark, John Donne reflects on Twickenham Garden, John Keats rhapsodizes on the Elgin Marbles, Stevie Smith goes to the suburbs of the city, Carol Ann Duffy to the

London of the Blitz, Sylvia Plath to Parliament Hills, and contemporary poets such as Daljit Nagra consider the increasingly ethnically diverse face of modern-day London. These writers and many more will delight us with their language and inspire us to use their poems as a road map for exploring some of the most interesting places – some still existent and others long gone – in London.

ENGL 4A: Beginning Creative Writing

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

There is no prerequisite for this class.

Introductory study and writing of short fiction, poetry, drama, and/or creative non-fiction. Students will be using the work of other writers for inspiration, but also, being in London will afford them the unique opportunity to write crafted poems, short stories, and creative non-fiction in response to their experience of places and people iconic (the Royal Family, the Tower of London, The Embankment, etc.) and ordinary (Covent Garden buskers, The Tube, English candies, etc.).

Students' pens and notebooks will open windows into the city – and themselves – they may have never otherwise noticed or articulated.

Rick Topinka

Los Rios Community College District

Rick Topinka is a professor of biology at American River College (ARC), where he has been teaching for 13 years. Rick developed an interest in biology as a child, turning over logs and bird watching, and he loves spending time in nature: he spent 5 months hiking the Pacific Crest Trail and has climbed El Capitan and Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. Rick has a passion for travel and for taking students to the field to learn from and be inspired by the natural world. Before joining the faculty at ARC, Rick earned a BA in biology from Carleton College in Minnesota and a PhD in Ecology from UC Davis and has conducted research in a wide range of fields, from human genetics to neurobiology to conservation ecology. Currently, Rick's interests are in marine biology and providing research opportunities to community college students. He is excited to explore the biology of London with students in the study abroad program.

BIOL 300: The Foundations of Biology

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

There is no prerequisite for this class.

This course focuses on the core concepts of biology through the lens of the human body and its structure and function. London is an incredible location to learn about human biology, genetics, and medicine for many reasons. In 1953, the structure of DNA was decoded in and around London, heralding the molecular revolution. London is also the birthplace of modern epidemiology. John Snow, whom many consider to be a 'father' of epidemiology, figured out how cholera was spreading from a water

source in Soho, London. In addition, there are incredible opportunities to visit local natural history museums including those that house some of Charles Darwin's original specimens from the Voyage of the Beagle. In London, we will have the opportunity to make connections between science and history in a way that will enrich our exploration into the foundations of biology.

BIOL 301: Evolution

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

There is no prerequisite for this class.

Evolution is the most important idea in biology and has been called the "single best idea anyone has ever had." And you can't find a location more critical to the development of modern biology and evolution than London. London is the historical center of evolutionary thought, and there are unparalleled opportunities for engaging with unique local resources, such as the London Natural History Museum, a world class museum which houses some of Charles Darwin's original collections. We will also visit the Down House outside London, which is Darwin's former residence with its famous 'Sandwalk', where we will literally be walking in Darwin's footsteps. This biology course explores the fascinating world of evolution, looking at the past and to the future, while taking advantage of the unique opportunities that London has to offer.

BIOL 375: Marine Ecology

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

There is no prerequisite for this class.

The ocean covers more than two thirds of the earth's surface and is one of the most threatened and poorly understood parts of the planet. In this class, we will explore the relationship between physical and biological processes in the marine environment with an emphasis on human impacts. This class covers important topics in biology, from cells to genetics to ecology, through the lens of the marine system. The River Thames runs through London and ideally locates us to discuss the ecology of this estuary in the context of human development. In the greater Bay Area in California, we live in proximity to another major estuary, the San Francisco Bay Delta, and we will have the opportunity to compare and contrast the biology and conservation of these two systems. In addition, the world class collections of the local natural history museums and aquaria will allow us to explore the diverse marine world in person.

David Laderman

San Mateo Community College District

College of San Mateo (CSM) Professor of Film David Laderman is no stranger to the Northern California Study Abroad Consortium (NCSAC): he has taught twice before, in both London and Paris. He fervently believes study abroad to be a unique, amazing educational opportunity, for both students and

faculty. Travel itself is always a chance to learn and grow; but when teaching and learning is formally built into an extended travel scenario such as our study abroad program, it's a truly game-changing life experience for students.

David especially loves the opportunity to teach film in a foreign location: students get to enjoy fascinating works of film art while connecting the dots with other aspects of the culture and history of a place like London. It's a win-win pathway to lived academic enrichment. As a fruitful antidote to today's virtual "travel" via the Internet, London Fall 2020 Study Abroad promises to shake up and wake up students, to the reality of diversity and the diversity of reality.

Indeed, David has traveled extensively throughout North and Central America, Central Africa, as well as Europe, and has taught at Stanford University and San Francisco State University. He holds two M.A.'s (one in French, one in Film), got his Ph.D. in the Cultural Studies program at UC Davis, and currently directs the Honors Project at CSM. He has published three books and numerous scholarly essays on film, on topics ranging from remix culture to punk music cinema to global road movies.

David is eager to embark on this upcoming journey to London for Fall 2020, and warmly invites students to take a worthwhile plunge, and join him.

FILM 122: Film History Focus: British 1960s Cinema

4 units, CSU/UC transferable.

There is no prerequisite for this class.

This course delves into 1960s British cinema, one of the most influential and compelling periods in world film history. Early 1960s British film saw the rise of the "kitchen sink" film, social realist films telling working class stories based on celebrated plays and novels; then, "swinging London" films reflect the mid-decade's middle-class fascination with pop music, fashion, sexuality and celebrity culture. The 1960s in Britain also furnishes the blockbuster James Bond series, prototype of today's Hollywood super-hero film franchises. Besides touching upon popular genres such as comedy and horror, we will also seek out smaller documentary and independent films. For more context, we will compare and contrast British films of the 1960s with American and French films of the same period; and also underline the legacy of 1960s British cinema still felt today.

FILM 130: Film Directors

4 units, CSU/UC transferable.

There is no prerequisite for this class.

This course will focus on major British directors, reflecting a variety of historical periods and artistic styles. Students will view and study a sampling of films by each director, exploring different cultural attitudes, national and transnational themes, and other aspects of British society. Possible directors include Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean, Michael Powell, Nicolas Roeg, Danny Boyle, Guy Ritchie, Gurinder Chadha, Sally Potter, Lynne Ramsay, among other lesser known but up-and-coming multicultural and independent directors. Through our directors lens, we will also come to appreciate the British film industry, in contrast with the US film industry, as well as the impact of diverse UK settings: London, the industrial North, the English countryside, Scotland, Wales, and so on.

Ken Alexander

Contra Costa Community College District

Ken Alexander was born, grew up and was educated, with a BA in Studio Art and an MA in Art History. He has been lucky enough to work in TWO different professions and loved them both: first, being a designer, but he loves teaching even more!

While thoroughly American, Ken has an affinity for Europe in general and for the U.K. in particular. He has spent over two years of his life traveling, in trips that varied from three weeks to three months in the U.K., Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, Belgium and Germany. While he has driven twice around the U.K., and traveled many miles by train, he has hiked over 1500 miles of National Trails in England, Scotland and Wales. The U.K is in both his blood as well as his DNA, so it has become his “home away from home.”

Ken’s travels in Britain’s cities, towns and villages and have given him the opportunity to get to know the British people and their island up close and very personally, often staying in private homes and hostels as well as guesthouses and hotels. He has walked the moors and forests, the mountains and the valleys, the rivers and the coasts of Britain. Along the way, there have been megaliths, hillforts, castles, fortresses, abbeys, chapels, churches, cathedrals, palaces, museums, theaters and of course, pubs!

Since teaching graphic communications courses at the beginning of his career, he has moved progressively into teaching studio art, art history, and ultimately humanities courses. The greatest satisfaction he has in this broad range of subjects is the opportunity they afford him to satisfy an immense curiosity to know and understand more about art, music, drama, literature, history, philosophy and religion ranging from the prehistoric, ancient, medieval, early and late modern eras. He continues to practice his own artistic endeavors, as a painter (in oil and watercolor) and as a designer.

All of these collectively gave Ken the opportunity to teach in the 1999 and 2010 Florence Study Abroad Programs. While he loved living and teaching in Florence, he looks forward even more to sharing the experience of one of the world’s great cities!

ART 007: Medieval and Renaissance Art History (350-1550 CE)

3 units; UC/CSU transferable.

There is no prerequisite for this class.

Many students eventually visit the cities of Europe, but later wish that they had *known* what they were seeing. In London, they will learn with me *while* they are temporary residents. Although a modern metropolis, London is filled with civic and religious buildings and infrastructure (city walls, gates, churches, an abbey and even a castle) built during various cultural/art historical eras. Throughout these buildings are paintings and sculptures created during the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Norman, High Medieval and early Elizabethan periods. Collectively, they identify the values and assumptions of the English people as they became in fact, English. Therefore, they could be understood by people of those times holistically, without explanation. We today are not of that time or place, and therefore cannot “know” them as the citizens of London did. Art history teaches students how to look, how to evaluate what is significant, what it represents and why it is there. Instead of merely looking, students can be trained, by

example and experience to *observe*, recognizing symbols, understanding their meaning and walking away, having truly experienced what the artists intended.

London is the home of the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert museum, the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery and the famous armor collections of the Wallace Collection and the Tower of London among many others. Without guidance, the artifacts there are only items behind glass or placed on pedestals. These resources are very rich in terms of exposing students to the rich cultural heritage of the medieval and Renaissance eras.

ART 008: Early Modern Art History (1550 to 1920 CE)

3 units; UC/CSU transferable.

There is no prerequisite for this class.

This course follows the history of Britain as it rose to become a world military, industrial and economic power, the empire “upon which the sun never set” through the art and architecture of the late Elizabethan, Baroque, Neoclassical and Romantic periods as well as specific English movements such as the Pre-Raphaelites and Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We will see how royal patronage of artists and architects began to yield to the rising middle class made wealthy by trade (in merchandise and unfortunately, slaves) and industrialization, commissioning paintings, sculptures and buildings that reflected their wealth and status. In reaction to the ugliness of mines, blast furnaces and the crowded and deplorable conditions in the mills and slums of the cities, we will see the British turn to the still-pristine, natural landscapes of their countryside. Finally, we will turn to English and Scottish Impressionism up to the national catastrophe of the First World War. *(Please refer to the philosophy of Art History as detailed in the descriptor for ART 007, above.)*

HUMAN 4A: Shakespeare’s English Kings

3 units; UC/CSU transferable.

There is no prerequisite for this class.

Murder. Mayhem. Madness. In a series of plays devoted to questions of leadership and legitimacy the English Plantagenet Dynasty committed suicide in an ongoing lust for power. Shakespeare highlights the events that took place between 1399 and 1485, 86 years in which King Richard II is deposed and murdered by his cousin, Henry of Bolingbroke, who establishes the Lancastrian line of Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI. The ensuing Wars of the Roses would see Henry VI deposed and murdered, placing young Edward IV on the throne. His early death would lead to another deposition, this time engineered by Edward’s brother Richard III, whose memory is shadowed by the disappearance and probable murder of his nephews in the Tower of London. It closes with Richard’s brutal death on the battlefield near Market Bosworth and the beginning of the new Tudor dynasty. These events largely took place in London, and Westminster Palace and Abbey as well as the Tower, all in London there to be seen and experienced. Many of the battles of the Wars of the Roses (like St. Albans and Barnet) are within easy access from London and can be visited to see where the royal family tore itself apart. The content of this course includes *Richard II*, *Henry IV, Pts. 1 and 2*, *Henry VI, Pts. 1, 2 and 3*, and *Richard III*. We will read, hear

and see all of these plays and if we are lucky, will be able to see a live performance or two at the New Globe Theatre or by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Even Stratford itself would be within reach of our program.