

COURSE SPECIFICATION
DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Social Sciences and Humanities

Programme: International History

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Black London

Course Code: HST 5445

Total Hours: 120

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 0

Independent Learning Hours: 75

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

The course examines the history of the African Diaspora in London over approximately the last 300 years, paying particular attention to changes in the demographic background to this Diaspora and the ensuing debates around the various notions of Blackness. The context to the course is the growth of London as the hub of an imperial system underscored by notions of race, and the subsequent changes to the metropolis in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The course will open up social relations at the heart of Black London's history, including class, gender and sexuality. London has a long history of ideological movements driven by the conditions of the 'Black Atlantic'. As such the course addresses abolitionism, anti-colonialism, Pan Africanism, and anti-racist struggles within Britain, as well as range of diverse cultural impacts including on literature, religion, music, fashion, language and cuisine.

Pre-requisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To engage students with the history and development of the Black Diaspora in London over the past 300 years
- To help students develop a critical understanding of the concepts and ideas utilised in the study of Black history
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of international history
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in international history
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

International History: A5(ii); A5(iii); B5(i); B5(iii) C5(i); C5(ii); C5(iii); D5(i); D5(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

- Have a detailed understanding of the history of the Black Diaspora in London and the theories related to understanding its development.
- Have a critical understanding of key historical terms, such as race, blackness/whiteness, postcolonialism, diaspora studies, negritude, empire, creolisation, decolonisation and pan Africanism, amongst others.
- Be comfortable analysing a wide range of secondary sources across the entire period of the course.
- Have a fundamental grasp of methods for reading and interpreting both printed and visual primary source material.
- Have developed historiographical skills set out in the aims and objectives.
- Complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence, and critical thinking and with a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course.

Indicative Content:

- Understanding both the idea of a Black Atlantic and critical approaches to that theory.
- The history of London as the capital of an imperial system and the consequences of that.
- Understanding political responses to that system, such as anti-colonialism etc.
- Debates around changing notions of blackness, race/ethnic identities, and racism.
- Debates around the relationship of class, gender, and sexuality to the African diaspora.
- The diversity and complexity of the African diaspora's cultural impact on the metropolis.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for every session, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion in sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning. There may be some outside visits linked to issues with the course.

Indicative Texts:

Fryer, Peter *Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain* (1984/2018)

Matera, Marc *Black London: The Imperial Metropolis and Decolonization in the Twentieth Century* (2015)

Perry, Kennetta *London is the Place for Me: Black Britons, Citizenship and the Politics of Race* (2015)

Hall, S & Evans, J *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices* (2013)

Bradley, Lloyd *Sounds Like London: 100 Years of Black Music in the Capital* (2013)

Gilroy, P & Hall, S. *Black Britain. A Photographic History* (2007)

Gerzina, Gretchen *Black London: Life before Emancipation* (1995)

Gilroy, Paul *The Black Atlantic - Modernity and Double Consciousness* (1993)

Websites:

<http://www.connectedhistories.org> Connected Histories

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/> Legacies of British Slave Ownership

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/caribbean/> National Archives – the Caribbean images

<https://blackculturalarchives.org> Black Cultural Archives in Brixton

<https://blackbritishhistory.co.uk> Black British History – Institute of Commonwealth Studies

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	

