

**COURSE SPECIFICATION**  
**DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	History
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	Black London
<b>Course Code:</b>	HST 5445
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Alex Seago
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning :	75
<b>Semester:</b>	FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER
<b>Credits:</b>	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 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. A theoretical underpinning of the course is that London is one of the centres of a Black Atlantic, as understood through the works of Paul Gilroy. 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, such as: Abolitionism, anti-colonialism, Pan Africanism and anti-racist struggles within Britain; all of these will be within the parameters of the course. Finally, the cultural impact of the Black Atlantic on London will be looked at in all its diversity, including, but not restricted to: literature, religion, music, fashion, language, cuisine, etc.

**Pre-requisites:** GEP 4180 or ARW 4195 or HST 3200 or SCL 3100

**Aims and Objectives:**

The class aims to foster the acquisition, development and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of the development of an African Diaspora in London over the past 300 years. It will encourage the development of historiographical skills, including research skills, formulating and presenting coherent arguments in seminars and assessments, and in critical thinking around variety of primary and secondary sources.

**Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes. 5A(i); 5A(iii); 5B(ii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(ii)

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.
- 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.
- Have a critical understanding of key historical terms, such as postcolonialism, diaspora studies, negritude, empire, creolisation, decolonisation and pan Africanism, amongst others
- 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.

**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 maybe be some outside visits linked to issues with the course.

**Bibliography:**

Bradley, Lloyd	<i>Sounds Like London: 100 Years of Black Music in the Capital (2013)</i>
Fryer, Peter	<i>Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain (1984/2018)</i>
Gerzina, Gretchen	<i>Black London: Life before Emancipation (1995)</i> (free at <a href="https://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/digital/publishing/books/gerzina1995">https://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/digital/publishing/books/gerzina1995</a> )
Gilroy, Paul	<i>The Black Atlantic - Modernity and Double Consciousness (1993)</i>
Gilroy, P & Hall,S	<i>Black Britain. A Photographic History (2007)</i>
Hall, S & Evans, J	<i>Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices (2013)</i>
Matera, Marc	<i>Black London: The Imperial Metropolis and Decolonization in the Twentieth Century (2015)</i>
Perry, Kennetta	<i>London is the Place for Me: Black Britons, Citizenship and the Politics of Race (2015)</i>

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

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

