



Boston University Study Abroad London

London Architecture and Urbanism CAS AH 381

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the history and development of London and its buildings. It is aimed at a wide audience and not architectural specialists. The city, and its different architectural styles are explored through lectures and field trips.

The physical exploration of London is undertaken through walking field trips, and some bus trips to understand London's architecture and urban development in its wider geographical context. As a result, students will be able through first hand visual analysis and source materials to analytically interrogate the buildings and the urban environment.

The course will foster the skills necessary to interpret London's architecture over a broad historical period covering the early modern city to the present day. The lectures and field trips will enable students to develop historical consciousness and provide first-hand experience of aesthetic exploration.

Hub Outcomes (Course Objectives)

This teaching sets out to enable students to fulfil two learning outcomes: Aesthetic Exploration and Historical Consciousness.

1. Aesthetic Exploration

Aesthetic Exploration 1

Students will demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of notable works of London's architecture, including the cultural contexts in which those works were created, and be able to identify their ongoing significance and relevance.

Aesthetic Exploration 2

Students will demonstrate the reasoning skills and architectural vocabulary necessary to interpret historic and contemporary works of architecture.

Aesthetic Exploration 3

Students will produce evaluative and analytical essays that demonstrate understanding of the characteristics – such as genres, modes, styles, and cultural history that shape architecture and urban development.

2. Historical Consciousness

Historical Consciousness 1

Students will create historical narratives, evaluate architectural achievements, urban change and analyse individual buildings based on historical evidence in order, to construct historical arguments and locate architectural development of the city in the context of broader social and historical and cultural change.

Historical Consciousness 2

Students will demonstrate an ability to interpret primary visual source material (buildings, architectural ornament, furniture, sculptures and/or artworks) and engage with primary and secondary textual sources (archives, architectural drawings, architectural models, photographs, books and periodicals) using a range of interpretative skills and situating the material in its historical and cultural context so that students can confidently interpret works of architecture.

Historical Consciousness 3

Students will demonstrate knowledge of religious traditions, intellectual paradigms, forms of political organization, or socio-economic forces, and consider how these have changed over time and how they affect architectural change.

Additional Course Objectives

Students will develop their ability to talk about and analyse different elements of buildings. Students will be able to read architectural drawings: plans, sections, elevations and 3D images.

Students will refine their ability to assess primary and secondary sources at a research level. Students will be more aware of opportunities to study and work in London in the field of architecture and design.

Other Outcomes

This course is part of the BU Study Abroad London Internship Programme, and the BU College of Fine Arts and its specialised programmes. The aim is to enhance life skills, such as independent working, self-motivated study, personal self-confidence and good time keeping.

Approach to Learning

Experiencing London architecture first-hand with the support of lectures and field trips enables students to understand the evolution of the city and to visit its most important landmarks. The course format is a mixture of class lectures and field trips, or sometimes field trips only to enable discussion-based, active, and experiential-learning. Students will read set texts; this knowledge will be consolidated through discussions about London architecture and lectures about the history of architecture. The four-hour teaching sessions include walking tours so students can see different parts of London and engage with architecture from different periods.

Students will write a course work essay demonstrating the newly acquired knowledge of London's architecture gained through personal observation and drawing upon historical knowledge from key texts and class lectures. At the end of the semester students will produce an examination paper in which they respond to pre-seen questions, so they are able to undertake additional research to write a critical response. They will demonstrate not only their understanding of the historical facts, but also their ability to articulate how

architecture responds to economic, political, and historical change, using their research skills, correct referencing, and wide reading.

Grading

The following Boston University table explains the grading system that is used by most faculty members on Boston University's Study Abroad London Programmes.

Grade	Honour Points	Usual %
A	4.0	93–100
A-	3.7	89–92
B+	3.3	85–88
B	3.0	81–84
B-	2.7	77–80
C+	2.3	73–76
C	2.0	69–72
C-	1.7	65–68
D	1.0	60–64
F	0.0	Unmarked

Grading Criteria

'Incomplete' or **I** grades are not permitted because of the obvious difficulty in making up missed work once the student has left the country. All work must be completed on time. We also do not allow **'Audits'** (AU), **'Withdrawals'** (W), or **'Pass/Fail'** (P) grades.

The grades reflect the quality of the work. Lecturers and students should use the following criteria for an understanding of what each grade means.

A This exceptional grade is assigned only to work that has persistently outstanding quality in both substance and presentation. The student must demonstrate a sustained capacity for independent thought and extensive study, producing rigorous and convincing analyses in well-ordered prose.

A- Awarded to work that is clearly focused and analytical, and based on wide reading. The student must cover all the principal points of a question and systematically develop a persuasive overall thesis, allowing for one or two venial omissions or inapt expressions.

B+, B, B- This range of grades indicates that the student has shown some evidence of original thought and intellectual initiative. The student has cited sources beyond the class materials and shown a degree of originality in perception and/or approach to the subject. The work will show thoughtful management of material, and a good grasp of the issues. The differences between a B+, a straight B and a B- may reflect poor presentation of the material, or mistakes in punctuation, spelling and grammar.

C+, C, C- Work in this grade range is satisfactory, but uninspiring. If the work is simply a recitation of the class materials or discussions and shows no sign of genuine intellectual engagement with the issues, it cannot deserve a higher grade. Should an essay fail to provide a clear answer to the question as set, or argue a position coherently, the grade will fall within this range.

Quality of presentation can lift such work into the upper levels of this grade range. Work of this quality which is poorly presented, and riddled with errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation, will fall into the lower end of the range. To earn a C grade, the work must demonstrate that the student is familiar with the primary course material, be written well enough to be readily understood, be relevant to the assignment, and, of course, be the student's own work except where properly cited.

D A marginal pass can be given where some but not all the elements of the course have been completed satisfactorily.

F The failing grade indicates the work is seriously flawed in one or more ways:

- Obvious lack of familiarity with the material
- So poorly written as to defy understanding
- So brief and insubstantial that it fails to properly address the subject
- Material presented is not relevant to the assignment
- Demonstrates evidence of plagiarism (see following section in Academic Conduct Code)

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism. This can be accessed via Blackboard Learn: <http://learn.bu.edu>

** Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.*

Attendance Policies

Classes

All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend every class session, seminar, and field trip to fulfil the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

Authorised Absence:

The Authorised Absence Approval Request Form is available through the Academic Affairs section of the BU London Personal Page: <https://fm.bu-london.co.uk/fmi/webd/>

Please note: Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Request Form does not guarantee an authorised absence

Students who expect in advance to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorised Absence Approval Request Form ten working days in advance of the class date.

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- **Illness (first day of sickness):** If a student is too ill to attend class, the student must notify Academic Affairs as soon as possible by submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Request Form in advance of the class. If it is the student's first absence of the semester (from any class) a doctor's note is not required.
- **Illness (multiple days):** If a student is missing more than one class day due to illness, the student must complete an Authorised Absence Approval Request Form and a sick note from a local doctor excusing their absence from class. Once well enough, the student will need to meet with Academic Affairs.
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor).
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

The Directors will only in the most extreme cases allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.

Unauthorised Absence:

Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive **a 4% grade penalty** to their final grade for the course whose class was missed.

This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with Academic Affairs to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a 'Fail' in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

Religious Holidays

Boston University's Office of the University Registrar states:

'The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled.'

Special Accommodations

Each student will need to contact the Disability & Access Services to request accommodations for the semester they are abroad. Students are advised by BU-DAS not to expect the same accommodations as they receive on campus.

BU London can only uphold special accommodations if we have received the appropriate documentation from the BU-DAS. We cannot accept letters from other universities/centres.

All disabilities need to be known to the DAS in Boston if they are to be used as a reason for requiring a change in conditions, i.e. reduced internship hours or special accommodations for the internship schedule.

Lateness

Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will be required to meet with the Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have their final grade penalised.