

Module title: **London: The Growth of a Modern World City**

Module code: **LNSE010**

Module tutor: **Michael Berlin**

### **Course description**

For centuries London has acted as nodal point in the process of global integration and the movement of goods and people. This module will explore how London based institutions and individuals have been crucial in the creation and unmaking of a worldwide empire and how, in turn, the physical fabric, demographic makeup, economy and culture of London have been shaped by this experience.

Since 1600 London has developed from being the capital of a relatively peripheral nation state into the centre of a far flung political and commercial empire. A vast network of exchanges developed based on the exploitation of peoples and resources, and centring on the City of London and its port. This network generated the wealth that enabled the industrialisation of Britain and the integration of London into an emerging global economy. Indeed, London became the centre of that economy and was to remain so until the British Empire began to weaken in the wake of the First World War. Since then London has been reshaped by war and imperial decline but has re-emerged as a global centre, though in very different conditions to earlier centuries.

We will be exploring in depth the place of London in the process of global integration, empire building and deconstruction. At the same time we look at the local effects globalisation to build up a comprehensive picture of the development of the modern metropolis.

### **Aims**

The overall aim of this course is give students a broad historical appreciation of how London emerged as a world city over the course of the past five centuries and to understand how the city's development is reflected in its topography, built environment and demography. Students will be gain an understanding of the major social and economic forces which have shaped the development of the metropolis.

### **Outcomes**

On successful completion of this module a student will:

- have a heightened understanding of the major forces which have shaped the development of London since the early sixteenth century.
- have acquired new perspectives on approaching history and the ability to think independently and critically about themes and debates in London's history.
- have a basic grasp of some of the research techniques and resources used in metropolitan history.

## Assessments

<i>Assessed component</i>	<i>Basic requirements</i>	<i>Weighting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Class Participation	In-class presentations and discussion	33.3%	Week 13
Research Essay	A research essay of a minimum of 2,500 words using primary sources and wide ranging secondary literature	33.3%	Week 10
Examination	Two hours requiring 2 essays to be written on material covered in lectures, visits, and demonstrating evidence of secondary reading	33.3%	Week 14

## Weekly Seminar Plan:

<b>Session</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Week 1	Introduction and background; Bloomsbury orientation walk Historical development of London from the Romans to early 16 <sup>th</sup> century; Roman and Anglo Saxon settlement; the development of the medieval city; the guilds and livery companies; royal London
Week 2	The impact of the Reformation; the growth of Protestantism; the dissolution of the monasteries; Marian London; the impact on parishes; Elizabethan Puritanism
Week 3	Site visit to Clerkenwell, including St. Bartholomew the Great
Week 4	The Plague and Great Fire and Rebellion London's role in the English civil war; the spread of the plague; the impact of the Great Fire
Week 5	Site Visit to the City of London
Week 6	Georgian and Regency London; London's economy and the slave trade; coffee houses; crime and punishment; dock building
Week 7	Site Visit to the West End

Week 8	Victorian London Railway building and the growth of suburbia; Rookeries and slums; cholera and local government reform; immigration in the nineteenth century
Week 9	Site visit to London Docks
Week 10	London in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century I; The Great War (1914-1918) and 'metroland'; interwar London politics and Cable Street <b>PAPER DUE</b>
Week 11	Site visit: Bethnal Green
Week 12	London in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century II: the impact of the Blitz; Empire Windrush; the swinging sixties; London in the 1970s and 1980s; Olympic City?
Week 13	Revision & presentations
Week 14	Two-hour exam: three essay questions

### Major Texts

Porter, Roy, *London: a Social History* (1994)

Inwood, S. *A History of London* (1998)

Kerr, J. & Gibson A., *London: from Punk to Blair* (2003)

White, J. *London in the Twentieth Century* (2001)

White, J. *London in the Nineteenth Century* (2007)

Beier, L. & Finlay, R. *London 1500-1700: the Making of the Metropolis* (1986)

Earle, Peter, *The Making of the English Middle Class. Business, Society and Family Life in London, 1660-1730* (1989)

Clark, Peter and Gillespie, Raymond, *Two Capitals: London and Dublin 1500-1840* (2001)

Griffith, P. and Jenner, M. *Londinopolis. Essays in the social and cultural history of Early Modern London* (2000)

Schofield, John, *The Building of London from the Conquest to the Great Fire* (1984)

Archer, I, *The Pursuit of Stability: Social Relations in Elizabethan London* (1991)

