

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY - SPRING 2023

COLGATE IN LONDON (ENGLISH)

**Director:**

Jennifer Brice, Department of English

Tentative Program Dates:

Late January to Early
May, 2023

Learn about the 2022-23 Colgate Study Groups and Talk With the Faculty Directors at the Study Group Fair at the Hall of Presidents on Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, 4:00–5:00: www.colgate.edu/academics/off-campus-study/campus-opportunities/virtual-study-group-fair

For more information about the program:

Please contact Prof. Brice at jbrice@colgate.edu

Information Sessions will be held on:

Tuesday, October 12 at 7pm in 107 Lathrop Hall and
Tuesday, October 19 at 7pm in 107 Lathrop Hall

Colgate University's

London English Study Group offers students the opportunity to live and study for a full semester in one of the world's great cities. In fact, London will be a central "text" of the study group, which is designed to immerse students in the culture, history, and life of the city. Through a study of London novels, including several focusing on immigrants experiencing the dizzying complexity of the city for the first time, students will develop a sense of the physical and historical contexts of British fiction. The impact of World War I on all aspects of English life and culture will be the special topic of a course in modern British literature, in which students will study a wide range of materials and visit museums, monuments, and other memorial sites in London. In a course on the contemporary London theater, students will study with an acclaimed playwright and attend a play each week. Finally, through a course on the history of London, which will include walking tours of all parts of the city, students will gain a further appreciation of its central place in Britain and its former empire, a magnet for immigrants who have transformed it into one of the most vibrant and multicultural cities in the world.

**Course of Study and Calendar:**

All students accepted into the group will take English 290, an introduction to study in London, 0.25-credit on-campus course in the fall of 2022; and four courses in London. Three of those courses will offer credit in the English Department: English 324Y and English 331Y, both taught by the director; and English 332Y, taught by a resident theater specialist in London. The fourth course will be History 249, taught by another resident specialist in London. In addition to the four required courses, there will be a series of day and overnight trips, as described below under Field Trips. With minor adjustments, the program will hew to Colgate's academic calendar for the spring semester of 2023, during which History will also have a study group in London.

Students participating in the English study group will satisfy the Core Global Engagements requirement by taking English 324Y (see course description below).

Director's Courses

1) ENGL 364Y: Americans Abroad (J. Brice)

A study of the rich literary and historical antecedents of contemporary American travel writing. When Americans look at England, they tend to see a place simultaneously familiar and strange, and this paradox is at the heart of our course. Students read such classics as Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Sunny Memories of Foreign Lands*, William Wells Brown's *Three Years in Europe*, and Mark Twain's *Innocents Abroad* as well as such recent works as Janet Malcolm's *The Silent Woman*, Paul Theroux's *The Kingdom by the Sea*, and Bill Bryson's *Notes from a Small Island*. Theoretical terms such as "the gaze," "the uncanny," and "the other" are discussed in relation to travel literature. Students gain a sense of the ways that writing has changed along with revolutions and wars, industrialization, and the increasing ease, speed, and affordability of travel.

2) Engl. 374Y: Travel Writing (J. Brice)

A workshop-based course modeled on Intermediate Prose I. Students read short works by a range of writers: George Orwell on shooting an elephant, Bruce Chatwin on Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid in Patagonia, Jamaica Kincaid on the white cliffs of Dover, Salman Rushdie on Bombay, Patricia Hampl on a Palestinian market, Cynthia Ozick on the shock of teapots. They write their own personal narratives about places not home, including at least one researched piece of writing about a London neighborhood.

Other Courses Taught for the Program

Engl. 332Y: Contemporary London Theater and Culture (M. Punter)

A study of drama, both classic and modern, as represented by plays in production in London during the spring of 2021. Students see roughly 10 productions, focusing on theoretical and technical aspects of drama, as well as on what the specific productions reveal about British culture and contemporary London.

Hist. 249Y: History of the City of London (K. Layton-Jones)

A course in the social and cultural history of England's greatest city. Students meet twice per week, once for a classroom session and once for a walking tour.

Field Trips

Outdoor experience is not required; a sense of adventure is. Two multi-day field trips will take us to mountains, moors and sea—more specifically, sites in the Lake District, Devon, and Suffolk. Day trips to tourist sites around the UK can be arranged through Accent. At semester's end, there will be a semi-formal dinner cruise on the Thames River.

Prerequisites and Selection Criteria

Priority will go to declared and prospective English and English/Creative Writing concentrators in the class of 2024. But there are no formal prerequisites for the program, and all Colgate students may apply, regardless of their concentration.

Facilities

Classes will be held at the Accent Study Centre, in Bedford Square, just a couple of blocks west of the British Museum in Bloomsbury. The complex houses a modest library and computer facility, which will be available to students. Students have membership to the University College London student union, providing them access to student clubs, and other activities with UCL degree students. Students will reside nearby in five- to six-person furnished flats in Bloomsbury. Each flat has a bathroom, kitchen, and common room. Students share kitchen space and are expected to provide their own meals.

Costs in London

For details of student expenses on this study group, please see the student cost estimate sheet on the Off-Campus Study website.

Passports and Visas

You must confirm that your passport is valid through June 2023. All students participating on the Fall 2022 London English Study Group will be required to obtain a U.K. Tier 4 student visa. With participation on this study group comes the responsibility of understanding and complying with U.K. visa requirements. If you will not be traveling on a U.S. passport it is imperative that you contact an adviser in Off-Campus Study and International Student Services, 101 McGregory, to learn as much as you can about the visa requirements. For some students there are significant requirements to be met that take time, advance planning, and incur costs.

Calendar and Deadline

The study group application will open on Wednesday, October 6, and will close on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. All applications are on the Colgate University Off-Campus Study website and are submitted online at offcampusstudy.colgate.edu. Only finalists in the selection process will be interviewed. Interviews will be arranged by e-mail in December, and admissions decisions will take place late December/early January.