

London's World War Course Descriptor

Course code	LHIST5220	Discipline	History
UK Credit	15	US Credit	4
FHEQ level	5	Date approved	November 2022
Core attributes			
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

Course Overview

London's wartime history retains mythic status in popular culture as a moment when the city symbolised Britain's heroic resistance against Nazism in Europe. Yet despite scholarly efforts to deconstruct the 'myth of the Blitz', this pivotal episode is still often approached in rather narrow parochial terms. In response, this course aims to give students an understanding of the global history of London in the period before and during the Second World War. It examines how groups including black political organisations, exiled European governments, Jewish refugees and American GIs all collided in the city, remaking it and the wider world in the process.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- K1b Discuss and reflect on key aspects of London's history in the era of the Second World War, including its social geography and its place in the wider world.
- K2b Reflect critically and contextually on the complexity in reconstructing the impact of the Second World War on London's business industry, society and public health.
- K3b Critically evaluate historical debates in relation to the impact of London's war on different communities in London.

Subject Specific Skills

- S2b Use digital tools, especially interactive mapping, to aid historical research and employ a critical understanding of the global history of London during the period in their work.
- S3b Identify, gather and critically analyse data for the history of London's World War.

Transferable and Employability Skills

- T1b Communicate complex ideas accurately and coherently.
- T3b Demonstrate a sound technical proficiency in written English and skill in selecting vocabulary so as to communicate effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Teaching and Learning

This course has a dedicated Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) page with a syllabus and range of additional resources (e.g. readings, question prompts, tasks, assignment briefs, discussion boards) to orientate and engage students in their studies

The scheduled teaching and learning activities for this course are:

Lectures/seminars

40 scheduled hours - typically including induction, consolidation or revision, and assessment activity hours.

- Version 1: all sessions in the same sized group

OR

- Version 2: most of the sessions in larger groups; some of the sessions in smaller groups.

OR

Directed study

4-12 scheduled hours, the exact number varying according to the balance of 1:1s, 2:1s, or small groups. The plan will be confirmed by the start of the course, taking into account student numbers and the proposed topics, readings, and specific tasks.

Faculty hold regular 'office hours', which are opportunities for students to drop in or sign up to explore ideas, raise questions, or seek targeted guidance or feedback, individually or in small groups.

Students are to attend and participate in all the scheduled teaching and learning activities for this course and to manage their directed learning and independent study.

Indicative total learning hours for this course: 150

Assessment

Both formative and summative assessment are used as part of this course, with purely formative opportunities typically embedded within interactive teaching sessions, office hours, and/or the VLE.

Summative Assessments

AE :	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Duration	Length
1	Written Assignment	50%	N/A	1800 words
2	Examination	50%	60 mins	N/A

For the written assignment students will assemble and analyse data utilising their understanding of the global, societal and political context of London in World War Two. For the exam they will use their understanding of the societal and political context to answer questions about London in World War Two.

Further information about the assessments can be found in the Course Syllabus.

Feedback

Students will receive formative and summative feedback in a variety of ways, written (e.g. marked up on assignments, through email or the VLE) or oral (e.g. as part of interactive teaching sessions or in office hours).

Indicative Reading

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is for a general guide and part of the approval/modification process only.

- Oliver Ayers, 'Jim Crow and John Bull in London: Transatlantic Encounters with Race and Nation in the Second World War' *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* (2020)
- Jerry White, *The Battle of London, 1939-45* (Penguin, 2021)

Indicative Topics

Note: Comprehensive and current topics for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative topics provided below are used as a general guide and part of the approval/modification process only.

- Black communities in London during the Second World War
- American service personnel in wartime London
- Jewish refugees in London
- German prisoners of war in London

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1.1	February 2023	February 2023	Edmund Neill	November 2027	Category 1: Corrections/clarifications to documents which do not change approved content or learning outcomes
1.0	November 2022	January 2023	Edmund Neill	November 2027	