



ILACA London Course Evaluations

Spring 2007

Number of Students Enrolled: 28
 Number of Evaluations Submitted: 28

Evaluation Period
 4/23/2007 - 5/23/2007

19th and 20th Century English Novel : Jean Elliott and Susie Thomas

Students Enrolled: 14

1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
Poor	Average			Excellent	5 pt scale	

Course content and interest				5	7	12	4.58
Instructional expertise				3	9	12	4.75
Use of program locale				5	7	12	4.58
Preparation for excursions, if applicable			1	4	6	11	4.45
Overall learning experience				3	9	12	4.75

Mincks, Emma B.: The class was great, and Suzie was my favorite prof, but I wish we would have gone on a few more excursions/ walks

Darms, Autumn F.: **I actually took Shakespeare the Dramatist with Jean Elliott - not 19th and 20th Century English Novel. It was absolutely wonderful to have the opportunity to see so many different productions on stage. It's been an awfully long time since I've thought about the acting, scripts, staging and so on of theater, and while we didn't focus exclusively on these aspects, approaching Shakespeare from this perspective was helpful. We were lucky, I know, to have such a wide selection of productions available to us (even though we are in London) and that helped, I think. I personally appreciated the chance to study several plays that I had not studied before (King Lear and Othello) along with several that I had.

Jackman, Laurel L.: I loved being taught by Susie! She's an amazing personality and has taught me how to really read the text and connect the dots ... very interesting class, thought the reading list was varied and never boring. Susie introduced me to other sorts of literature that I would usually shy away from. Great class and instructor :)

McGourty, Elizabeth A.: I loved this class, because I was able to read new books and ones I'd read before, and get a really good feel for the setting of them. I felt like my understanding of the novels was expanded by being in the actual setting, and I loved our discussions and walks and the novels we read.

Butenschoen, Clifford J.: I loved this class. I got a lot out of it. Very good professor and great material

Emigh, Charlotte M.: Susie is very knowledgeable. She did her best to keep the class challenging and interesting.

McCabe, Kristen G.: This course has been a delight. Susie is wonderful at teaching and at leading discussions. The Dickens walk was fantastic. The only thing I would say that I didn't like about the course was having "The Buddha of Suburbia" on the required reading list. I don't think that it's right to require students to read something so sexually graphic; it's one thing if someone chooses to read the book, but it's another if people have to read the book when they are uncomfortable doing so. Still, I will think very fondly of the class and I was glad to be a part of it.

Advanced Studio Art : Zoe Telford

Students Enrolled: 2

1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
Poor	Average			Excellent	5 pt scale	

Course content and interest					1	1	5.00
Instructional expertise					1	1	5.00
Use of program locale					1	1	5.00
Preparation for excursions, if applicable				1		1	4.00
Overall learning experience					1	1	5.00

Labrie, Jessie: We definitely used London as a classroom. This class enabled me to go places in this busy city I would never have been able to see or to have known about. The constant drawing that was expected from this course has helped my skills develop to a point I didn't think I could reach.

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Britain Today: Issues and Perspectives : Martin Upham

Students Enrolled: 28

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
	Poor		Average		Excellent		5 pt scale
Course content and interest		2	6	13	4	25	3.76
Instructional expertise			2	5	18	25	4.64
Use of program locale				4	21	25	4.84
Preparation for excursions, if applicable			1	7	17	25	4.64
Overall learning experience		2	4	12	7	25	3.96

Mincks, Emma B.: There was just so much information, that it is difficult to remember the some of it- the excursions made that class. The class discussions need to be more focused. I think it would help if students had to do personal journals for the class every once in a while, or if before the class discussion we reflected on 'how it is in America', because it seemed that everyone wanted to talk about that, and it was frustrating during discussions that we could not focus on Britain, so if the students were given more of a chance to reflect outside of discussion time, it would be helpful. Obviously the excursions and experiences here will give us perspective about our own country, so perhaps that should be incorporated into the class more (using journals or other self - reflective methods). We cannot understand the 'other' before first understanding ourselves. It was very informative, but difficult to put the information into context.

McCabe, Kristen G.: I enjoyed Martin's teaching and all of the excursions we went on for the class - certainly, the trips have been some of the highlights of this experience. However, I feel as though the content of the class was a little too scattered - perhaps there was too much covered, or not enough classroom time.

Butenschoen, Clifford J.: I loved this class as well. I am very happy that it was required

Sherwood, Caroline M.: I thought this class was interesting and informative and used our location quite well, as it seemed like we were almost never having class within a classroom. However, it was difficult to be accountable for names and dates learned on the excursions as it was much harder to take notes. For the weekend excursions it'd be much better if we could talk about them in a little more detail before hand. Not just logistics, but what we were going to see and important names and dates and such. It would have been easier to apply that knowledge to what we saw if we had been more prepared ahead of time. I still really enjoyed this class, and I think it really helped me to understand London and Britain much better.

May, Lindsay E.: Martin is a wonderful instructor and so the infomation was easily learned.

Jhaveri, Ami R.: Martin is an absolutely fantastic professor. The excursions were one of my favorite things and they really added to the value of the course (not to mention that it got us out into the city and learning our surroundings). From day one everything was made accessable which made this experience amazing.

Gangnes, Madeline B.: Martin is an excellent professor and is extremely knowledgeable. His use of excursions and the surrounding area to augment the class were very helpful. I did have a bit of difficulty, though I don't think it was really Martin's fault. It seems to me that the students who were enrolled in the politics class had a significant advantage when it came to some of the coursework, simply because they had more information on the subjects. It's difficult only having Martin's class once a week, but at the same time that works well for excursions. I have a very hard time memorizing facts, so I did much better on the papers than the quizzes/exams. I was interested in the course material and I think it's vital to tying the program together, but sometimes I felt a bit overwhelmed because I'm not used to history and politics classes. Perhaps since it's a required course there's some way to make the class friendlier to people outside those fields.

Labrie, Jessie: Martin knows just about everything about everything. I loved the excursions and all the different aspects of British culture that we got to explore. Current events are just so much more interesting when you're living them.

Asbell, Valerie Judith: Mr. Upham is good at helping struggling students, particularly students who are new to the lifestyle of studying abroad, or just being abroad. He's also got an open mind and is very helpful.

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Keys, Marlesha E.: One class period a week for 3 hours is NOT ideal. A 3 hour class session is understandable for excursion days (i.e. trips to the museum), but for classroom/lecture, it is simply too long. I found my mind drifting, which was frustrating because I really wanted to learn. Martin is so knowledgeable about everything, but it would be much more effective if there were two class sessions per week, for shorter duration. I would appreciate broader assignment prompts; there were some things that really interested me and I invested a lot of additional time learning about. Perhaps instead of having 3 prompts to choose from, allow for students to devise their own thesis and have it then ok-ed by Martin. That way there would be a greater variety for Martin (instead of reading 20-some papers about Scotland's campaign for independence), and it would also be more pleasurable for the student. I found the midterm exam to be very particular (hit-or-miss), like in most cases I didn't know the particulars asked on the exam but I had other intellectual treasures that I wasn't able to showcase. It was particularly challenging since I am not a natural historian (I marvel at Martin's ability to elucidate on any piece of history or culture.)

Jackman, Laurel L.: Really liked the parliament visit when we went to the public gallery in the House of Commons. It was interesting how the material taught in class transferred to my knowledge when watching IT really happen in front of me, thought it was very very interesting and thought-provoking. Thought the class was a little bit too discussion/student opinions based and not enough lecture. Was not prepared for the mid-term, came at me like a cannon ball...loved all the excursions - especially the parliament houses.

Lundgren, Ilsa: The class subjects were really scattered, every class was on a completely different topic. The class periods were interesting and discussion based, and I felt, as did most students, that the tests were shockingly specific as compared with the style of the class.

McGourty, Elizabeth A.: The course gave me a really good feel for British history, culture and politics that was really helpful for living here. I feel like, without this class, there would have been a lot of things that I would've missed out on in my experiences here. Knowing about all these aspects of the British experience made my own experience that much more fulfilling and complete.

Darms, Autumn F.: This class really tied our whole experience together. There is so much to cover that much of what we covered was brief, and Some parts of the material was review for some people at some times, but I can't think of any other way to give a group of 30 students such a well rounded glimpse into British culture, history, politics and so on. The excursions that were built into this program, into this class, fit in beautifully and once again, gave us an excellent foundation. Without this class in particular, but without all of my classes, I would not have been able to process my experience here in London. The classes gave me the tools, the framework, upon which to base my experiences.

Rasplica, Caitlin K.: We took a lot of valuable excursions in this class. I did learn quite a bit, but I felt that the expectations, regarding assignments and exams was a bit vague. I appreciated Martin's expertise in all subjects we covered. He was very informative if you personally went and asked him questions.

British Masters : Carole Machin

Students Enrolled: 11

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
	Poor		Average	Excellent			5 pt scale
Course content and interest	1			2	5	8	4.25
Instructional expertise			1		7	8	4.75
Use of program locale					8	8	5.00
Preparation for excursions, if applicable				1	7	8	4.88
Overall learning experience			1	1	6	8	4.63

Jackman, Laurel L.: I enjoyed going to all the different exhibitions in all the different galleries around London. Learnt alot. Really liked the Tate Britain! Wish we could have gotten back to the national gallery as a class

Asbell, Valerie Judith: I enjoyed her class very much. She is very intelligent and knows her stuff! It made a lot people very intersted in art. I really enjoyed the museum trips! I like how there was a variety.

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Gangnes, Madeline B.: Prof. Machin is a very good professor, who most definitely knows her stuff. One-hour slide lectures on Tuesday were perfectly organized to prepare the class for the two-hour museum visits on Thursdays each week. Assignments directly related to course material and helped us gain extra knowledge on related topics. I have never had a more interesting or informative art history course, and I had a lot of fun as well!

Labrie, Jessie: The excursions were definitely the highlight of this class, and I love the intricate knowledge we gained about all the different art galleries.

Mincks, Emma B.: This class is great- Carole knows what she is doing, but also allows the students to explore their own reactions to the art. Amazing use of London's resources. I never felt like we were stuck in the classroom.

British Politics : Don Share

Students Enrolled: 11

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
	Poor	Average		Excellent		5 pt scale	
Course content and interest				5	3	8	4.38
Instructional expertise				2	6	8	4.75
Use of program locale					8	8	5.00
Preparation for excursions, if applicable				2	6	8	4.75
Overall learning experience				2	6	8	4.75

Jhaveri, Ami R.: Don is amazing; his knowledge of the subject was mind-blowing and really made the class interesting. He made sure to take us to Parliament and debates there (which was one of my favorite parts of the trip). At first I didn't know how much I would be interested in the course, but I am so glad that I took it because Don was wonderful in so many ways. This course forced us to participate in British culture and life; it made this experience for me.

Sherwood, Caroline M.: I found this class to be fascinating, as walking into this program I knew absolutely nothing about British politics. The speakers and excursions were informative and enjoyable, and we were able to really use London to its utmost potential with all we did. Overall, I think this was one of my favorite classes, as Don was passionate about the subject, even though he was learning almost as much as we were. This was a great class.

Darms, Autumn F.: This class probably had the most specific focus of all four of the classes I took and was probably most like the classes I take at home (probably because Don was the visiting professor). I learned so much. It just so happened that this semester was an incredibly fascinating time for UK politics, so that, of course, added to the experience.

May, Lindsay E.: This class was really exciting since we were in the middle of everything we were discussing in class. Don was very knowledgeable so it was easy to transition from US politics to UK politics.

Rasplica, Caitlin K.: This was my first politics class, and I am very glad I took it. I never had much of an interest in politics until this class. Class was always very interesting and it was a valuable learning opportunity for me.

Empire: The British Experience, 1500-1960 : Lisa Bowers-Isaacson

Students Enrolled: 15

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
	Poor	Average		Excellent		5 pt scale	
Course content and interest		1	2	8	2	13	3.85
Instructional expertise		1	4	2	6	13	4.00
Use of program locale		1		5	7	13	4.38
Preparation for excursions, if applicable		1		5	7	13	4.38
Overall learning experience		1	2	5	5	13	4.08



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Labrie, Jessie: History being a personal favorite of mine, I was very excited for this course and it met my expectations. There was a lot of reading that almost swamped me, but it was relevant and interesting. The walks were also very fun.

Jackman, Laurel L.: History came alive for me in London and that was pretty much amazing! I like the final paper being a history walk - it's so much fun to research the inner history of London and be able to say 'I've been there...and there...' :)

Darms, Autumn F.: I also learned so much in this class. It provided the foundation for studying the British Empire. It's such an immense field of study that we were only able to touch on high (or low) points, but it certainly gave us a good overview. Most of our classes tied in walks, but in this class the walks were especially helpful.

May, Lindsay E.: I loved the walks, they were perhaps the best part of the class, to actually get to see the places we talk about. The readings were interesting but there were some we never discussed at all. Loved the Ferguson book.

Sherwood, Caroline M.: I really enjoyed the walks around London that were incorporated into this class. (Even if one was in the pouring rain). They helped me explore parts of London that I would have never explored on my own, and really opened my eyes to the remnants of Empire that were still around. Lisa was informative and knowledgeable about all of the subjects, and the readings were interesting, although there were too many of them. It was difficult to get so much reading done before class, and the result was that not many of us were able to do it. I really liked the documents packets, so perhaps focusing on them in more detail rather than having so many supplementary readings would help students to focus on the important aspects of Empire.

McCabe, Kristen G.: The course was absolutely fantastic! The use of walks was great - I found myself looking for signs of the Empire everywhere and I feel as though we were sort of trained to be aware of the history behind things instead of merely looking at them. The collection of primary sources was amazing. Lisa is a great teacher - she is extremely knowledgeable and great at explaining concepts. After taking this course I've decided to pursue history in graduate school and I'm really excited about it. This course has left me wanting to know more - I certainly won't be able to walk away from this topic.

Rasplica, Caitlin K.: This class was very informative. It was more of an opportunity to teach yourself. Lisa was very helpful if you ever had any questions. I wish we would have spent more time in class listening to Lisa's knowledge, rather than going over the assigned reading. I think that Lisa also should talk with the students prior to the walk about what they will be seeing. Overall, I learned a lot in this class.

McGourty, Elizabeth A.: This was a fascinating class, and that much better because we were able to explore the city in a historical way, to see the roots of everything that has built up Britain to what it is today. Everywhere I go in London now, I can see something that relates to 'Empire' - I'm going to miss that when I get home...

Shakespeare the Dramatist : Jean Elliott

Students Enrolled: 17

1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
Poor		Average		Excellent		5 pt scale

Course content and interest			1	3	11	15	4.67
Instructional expertise			2	1	12	15	4.67
Use of program locale			2	1	12	15	4.67
Preparation for excursions, if applicable		1		4	10	15	4.53
Overall learning experience			1	5	8	14	4.50

Butenschoen, Clifford J.: Good class. My favorite part was the vast amount of plays we were able to attend. It made for a wonderful experience.

Jhaveri, Ami R.: I loved this course. I had no idea how much I could possibly love Shakespeare before this class; now, I'm ready to go home and tackle more and more of his works. Jean was an amazing teacher; she made the text come alive for us and made us think about all the different possibilities that were occurring on the page, and what could be done on stage. I wish I could have changed two things: having more time with this course so that we could cover more material, and spending more time reading a scene (or any part of the text) in class and having students "perform" it. I think that making students stand up and act it out really helps them (even if it is a bit embarrassing). Also, going to the productions are key! I'm so grateful we went to as many as we did.

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McGourty, Elizabeth A.: I would like to have a mini Jean to carry around in my pocket and tell me everything about Shakespeare and whatever particular play I'm reading or seeing. She really gives us a feel not only for the meaning & understanding of the plays, but emphasized our understanding of the era when they were written, and all the trivia that really augments the understanding of and enjoyment of Shakespeare.

Gangnes, Madeline B.: Jean is amazing, possibly in a superhuman way. It seems as though she knows almost everything there is to know about Shakespeare and anything or anyone related to him, and she's incredibly passionate about his work. Her passion for the subject is very infectious, and I couldn't help but wonder why I hadn't worshipped Shakespeare prior to the class after Jean had a few days to convince me of his greatness. Structuring the course around available Shakespeare performances worked very well. It did make for awkward scheduling at times, but I never felt like I had too much work to do, and I think that's really the only way to do it. We were able to read the plays, see them, reflect on the performances, and study their text in-depth. The papers we wrote helped us engage directly with the script in a more formal way, and we even did a bit of rudimentary acting! I would *HIGHLY* recommend this course to anyone, whether they like Shakespeare or not, because they will will when Jean is done!

Emigh, Charlotte M.: Jean is extremely knowledgeable about Shakespeare. The class was amazing. However, we didn't really utilize the fact that we were in London, except for the actual plays we saw

Labrie, Jessie: My favorite class of all! The approach and discussions we took and had were eye opening, not to mention very fun.

Manning, Kali Anne: The plays are an amazing addition! The course would not have been half as good without the discussions of the performances afterward. The class really challenged my knowledge of Shakespeare but it was not overly intimidating so I felt that I learned a tremendous amount. I loved the Globe workshop. I wished that we could have done my interactive reading with the course; it was fun on the days that we "acted" out different scenes because it added some variance.

McCabe, Kristen G.: The Shakespeare course has been amazing. I was thrilled to be able to see as many plays as we did. Jean is a wonderful teacher - her insights into and knowledge of the plays are brilliant. I loved Shakespeare's plays going into this class, but now that I've been taught to really dig into them and think about each word, my enjoyment of them will be so much more than it was before.

Mincks, Emma B.: This class was amazing, but is definitely from a performance perspective. I loved all the plays that we got to see, and the discussions about them afterwards.

Sherwood, Caroline M.: This class was great, and highly entertaining for the first class of the morning. I never woke up thinking "I don't want to go to class today," which, when you are studying abroad is a big deal, as there are so many other things you could be doing. The plays we saw were amazing. Each one was a completely different experience, and I learned quite a bit about Shakespeare through the performances and scripts. More than I ever thought I'd learn. I had a great time in this class

Asbell, Valerie Judith: THIS WAS BY FAR MY FAVORITE CLASS! I've taken several courses in Shakespeare and her class showed me that you can never quite stop learning when it comes to Shakespeare. I could talk a lot about her class, but I'll try to keep it brief. Not only is she absolutely hilarious, but she has so much energy. You can tell she's very passionate when it comes to Shakespeare and makes you feel the same (even though I already did feel that). When she is presenting her lectures, she's just very into it and sucks you into the world of Shakespeare and his art. Many of my fellow students didn't quite like her class, but I think they were just shocked by how a drama teacher acts--that's not good or bad. If drama's not their thing, that's totally cool. Anyway, this woman knows her stuff! I also love how she shared with us what Elizabethan life is like. Many people would think her class is hard, but it's not too hard in my opinion. I think people who aren't into Shakespeare could do very well in it too.
 Jean rocks! Thank you very much Jean!

Theatre: Audience and Society : Chris Cook

Students Enrolled: 13

1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
Poor		Average		Excellent		5 pt scale

Course content and interest			1	2	6	9	4.56
Instructional expertise				2	7	9	4.78
Use of program locale			3	2	4	9	4.11
Preparation for excursions, if applicable				3	5	8	4.63



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Overall learning experience					3	6	9	4.67
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Butenschoen, Clifford J.: Absolutley wonderful. Chris is one of my favorite professors I have ever had. I recommend keeping him as long as you can.

Emigh, Charlotte M.: Chris Cook is a fantastic instruction. I really enjoyed the class, and learned a ton. I do wish that would could have seen more plays in conjecture with the class. 5 plays were not enough. It would have been great to see more plays and discuss them. However, we didn't do any walks or excursions.

Jhaveri, Ami R.: Chris is essential to this course. He made this class amazing; I learned so much more about theatre than I knew was possible in twelve weeks. He made the material accessible and interesting. Two things that I would change for this class would be: seeing as many plays as possible (maybe 7 or 8), and more class discussions about the texts and the performances. I think that more focus should be placed on analyzing productions that we see because then we could discuss if the playwright's intentions were accurately communicated in the production.

Rasplica, Caitlin K.: I am also glad I took this class. I feel that upon leaving it, I have gained a greater understanding of Shakespeare. I can appreciate it much more now, and I understand better the way in which, to analyze script. This was also a great opportunity to see a vast variety of Shakespeare in London theatre

Keys, Marlesha E.: I like how Chris structured the course, it was very chronologically based (starting with the ancient Greek tragedies and coming all the way to contemporary playwrights). It would be nice if we were able to see a few more plays. And it would also be preferred if the plays fit more appropriately within the structure of the course, but that might not be realistically feasible. (It seemed like we would often see a play, but then wouldn't discuss it until weeks later when it fit more appropriately in the topic we were discussing, but at that point, it wasn't at fresh in our minds.) I appreciated the freedom in regards to the assignments; it allowed us the opportunity to really write about what we were interested in. And Chris's teaching method is engaging; I still think 3 hours is a long time for a class period, but it certainly helped having one or two small breaks within the period, and Chris just has this way of conveying the material in an intriguing documentary-style. Also, the class period had different teaching methods: 1 hour of lecture, 1 hour of reading a play as a class, another hour of discussing our reactions and feelings.

Asbell, Valerie Judith: I like how we didn't just learn about the plays, but the history behind them.

Gangnes, Madeline B.: NOTE: THIS REVIEW IS FOR SUSIE THOMAS' "19th/20th CENTURY ENGLISH NOVEL" COURSE. Susie is very fun, passionate, and knowledgeable. The novels she chose for the course fit together very well, even while they were very diverse and gave a great overview of different periods of modern and contemporary English literature. The reading assignments were always reasonable, and the papers and exams worked perfectly to help us increase our interaction with the texts. It was everything a Lit class should be, with extras (field trips and other fun stuff) as well. It's a great course for English majors or people who just like to read, or think they might be interested in learning about England (especially London and Londoners) through fiction rather than history. It compliments the Britain Today course well in content. If anything, take the class because Susie will alternately make you laugh heartily and analyze deeply every time you come to class.

Kowen, Peter W.: This course was especially enjoyable, but i wish we could have seen more plays.

Manning, Kali Anne: This was my favorite class of the semester because of the professor. There is room for improvment with the course work but under the circumstance of "inheriting" the course, I think Chris did an amazing job. I felt that he was very encouraging of me as a student which in turn inspired me to participate more in this class than I did with any of my other classes.