

CCSA 2025 London Winter Program

Exploring the Dark Side: Crime, War, and Society in London

Hello Students,

My name is Dr. Joseph Simpson. I am an associate professor of sociology at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. I am originally from Oklahoma and I earned my PhD in sociology at Oklahoma State University. My areas of interest are environmental sociology, technology, social theory, and social psychology. When I was an undergraduate sociology student I had the opportunity to study abroad in London and it has helped to shape me as a scholar. I want to offer you that same opportunity. This course is designed to provide you exposure to the city of London and British culture. Even when you are not participating in scheduled activities you will be immersed in sociology. This course is an exploration of the dark side of London. War, poverty, slavery, and crime are some of the evils we will examine sociologically. The deep history of London will give us a great opportunity to explore the changing character of these evils over time. I cannot wait to experience the city with you.

Best,
Dr. Joseph M. Simpson



Contact Information

Dr. Joseph M. Simpson
E-mail: joseph.simpson@ tamusa.edu
Cell phone: 580-678-2014
Mailing address: One University Way, San Antonio, TX 78224

Course Description

This course delves into the dark side of London society. Explore locations emblematic of society's evils – from the monstrous institutions of slavery, empire, and war to the social evils of crime, disaster, and disease. Tour the world's most famous prison, the Tower of London, then trace Jack the Ripper's steps through Whitechapel. Witness the full consequences of imperialism and war at the Imperial War Museum, then go underground to Churchill's War Rooms, where he directed the crusade against fascism during the Blitz. Once the busiest port in the world, visit the Museum of the Docklands, the end of the transatlantic slave trade triangle. Students majoring in sociology,

criminology, or criminal justice will gain a contemporary sociological understanding of crime, war, and the dark side of society.

Course Goals

- ❖ Explore the sociology of evil with a focus on London and Great Britain;
- ❖ Use experiential learning to investigate the history and contemporary sociological understanding of evil in London and Great Britain;
- ❖ Develop an understanding of the dark side of society and culture with a focus on poverty, war, crime, and slavery;
- ❖ Provide an understanding of the changing nature of the dark side of society and opposing light side forces.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

- ✓ develop research questions about the dark side of society.
- ✓ describe and evaluate the dark side of society, social institutions, social evils, antisocial social actions, and social representations of the dark side of society.
- ✓ explain and outline the general rules, resources, and relationships that structure London's dark side.

Course Materials and Requirements

Program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

You will need the following items for the course.

- ❖ Passport
- ❖ Camera
 - You will need some kind of digital camera for the class scavenger hunt: smart phone, budget camera, prosumer SLR. *If you already have a camera it will work for the class.* I have included a link to an affordable camera that uses AA batteries. Batteries will be available everywhere, charging stations may not be.
 - (<https://www.amazon.com/Kodak-PIXPRO-Friendly-Digital-Optical/dp/B01CG62D00/>)
- ❖ College Ruled Composition Notebook

- You will need to purchase a College Ruled Composition Notebook for journaling and class assignments.
- (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000GP16R0/>)
- ❖ You will need to plan on having \$75 for additional tickets and tips.

Required Readings

Sociology of Evil

- Wolff, Kurt H. 1969. "[For a Sociology of Evil.](#)" *Journal of Social Issues* 25(1): 111-126.
- Alexander, Jeffrey C. 2001. "Towards a Sociology of Evil." *Rethinking Evil: Contemporary Perspectives*. 153-72.
- Aykroyd, Peter. 1973. *Evil London: The Dark Side of a Great City*. Evil and the Environment.

Poverty

- Somers, Margaret R., and Fred Block. 2005. "[From poverty to perversity: Ideas, markets, and institutions over 200 years of welfare debate.](#)" *American Sociological Review* 70(2): 260-287.
- Humphrey, Caroline. 2015. "[Face-to-Face: Social Work and Evil.](#)" *Ethics and Social Welfare* 9(1): 35-49.
- Thane, P. (2024). [Poverty and the Rise and Fall of the Welfare State in Britain, 1900 to the Present](#). *Society*, 61(3), 263-274.

Crime and Punishment

- Tomlinson, A. (2006). [Capital punishment in Great Britain: Theories concerning abolition.](#) *Historia*, 15, 20-30.
- Laufs, J., & Borrión, H. (2022). [Technological innovation in policing and crime prevention: Practitioner perspectives from London](#) . *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 24(2), 190-209.
- McMullan, J. L. (1996). [The new improved monied police: Reform, crime control, and the commodification of policing in London.](#) *The British Journal of Criminology*, 36(1), 85-108.

Racism and Slavery

- Christian, Mark. 1998. "[An African-centered approach to the Black British experience: With special reference to Liverpool.](#)" *Journal of Black Studies* 28 (3): 291-308.
- Ingram, Paul, and Brian S. Silverman. 2016. "[The Cultural Contingency of Structure: Evidence from Entry to the Slave Trade in and Around the Abolition Movement.](#)" *American Journal of Sociology* 122(3): 755-797.

War and Terrorism

- Kestnbaum, Meyer. 2009. "[The Sociology of War and the Military.](#)" *Annual Review of Sociology* 35: 235-254.
- Sznaider, Natan. 2006. "[Terrorism and the Social Contract.](#)" *Irish Journal of Sociology* 15(1): 7-23.
- Craig, T. (2010). [Sabotage! The Origins, Development and Impact of the IRA's Infrastructural Bombing Campaigns 1939–1997.](#) *Intelligence and National Security*, 25(3), 309-326.

Attendance and Participation Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Participation is mandatory at all class events. The nature of the course does not allow for absence. Missing class activities will result in the loss of one letter grade.

Academic Honesty

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic Dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submission, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. Engaging in one of these activities may result in a zero for the assignment or a grade of "F" for the course.

Physical Expectations

Program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Course Requirements

Before Leaving:

Reading Responses: 60 points (12 points each)

- 250 word summaries of the readings from each topic area (Sociology of Evil; Poverty; Crime and Punishment; Racism & Slavery; War and Terrorism)
- *Marginal* 9 points, *Fair* 10 points, *Good* 11 points, *Excellent* 12 points

In London:

Participation: 40 points

- Participation at all scheduled class events is mandatory. However, to receive full credit for participation students need to be engaged, participate in discussions, and be prepared for the day's events. **Failure to participate will reduce your final grade by one letter grade!**

Scavenger Hunt: 40 points

- While you are in London you will be asked to find and document certain items photographically by taking a selfie. A list of scavenger hunt items and their point values is included at the end of the syllabus. Insert your pictures into a word document and submit them with your final essay.

Daily Journal: 80 points (40 points each)

- Students will make daily journal entries during the trip. The journals will be checked periodically and collected at the end for final grading. Students are responsible for journaling about two pages each day reflecting on the day's activities and what they learned.
- Journals will be checked on each Sunday of the course. Each journal entry needs to be clearly dated. Each day of a journal entry is worth about 3 points. Journal entries are for your benefit. Use it to take notes on our daily activities, keep documents for your newspaper articles, develop research ideas for your final essay, and reflect on your experiences.
- *Marginal* 26 points, *Fair* 30 points, *Good* 36 points, *Excellent* 40 points

Current News Response Essays: 80 points (40 points each)

- Each day of the class, you must read a local newspaper or other local news source and keep notes and clippings relevant to the course goals. Based on these readings, you will develop two short (2-3 pages) hand-written essays and include a clipping (or two) as supporting evidence. Due at the end of the day each Sunday.
- Each essay will be evaluated based on the relevance to the course, the strength of the argument, organization, clarity, and creativity. All essays must include a clipping from a local newspaper or magazine, or they will not be graded.
- *Marginal* 26 points, *Fair* 30 points, *Good* 36 points, *Excellent* 40 points

Final Essay Project: 100 points

- You will write a summative essay based on one of the several major themes explored in the class. Discussion about the papers will start at the beginning of the trip and will be the subject of periodic discussion and feedback sessions. Students will submit a short handwritten description of their final essay before returning home.
- Final projects are expected to critically explore a research question directly related to the course goals and content. Papers need to be formatted using ASA Style. Formatting guidelines can be found at the Purdue OWL(<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/01/>)
- Outline your paper to have the following sections: introduction (including historical context), literature review, discussion, policy implications, and conclusion.
- You must cite at least five scholarly articles, three of which must be sociological sources. You will be graded on relevance to the course, the strength of argument, organization, formatting, grammar, clarity, and creativity. The paper should be 5-7 pages double-spaced, not including the cover page and citations.
- *Marginal* 60-69 points, *Fair* 70-79 points, *Good* 80-89 points, *Excellent* 90-100 points
- Final Papers are due January 23rd by 5:00 PM CST.

Honors:

- For students pursuing honors there are additional assignment requirements
- Before departure honors students will need to develop a research proposal for their final essay and get approval from the instructor.
- The proposal should incorporate concepts from the pre-departure readings and identify additional resources.
- Your final essay needs to be theoretically driven, data driven, and innovative.
- Honors proposals and final essays should take advantage of the course activities to advance their thesis.

Grading Scale

Requirement	Percent	Scale	Point Values
Reading Responses	15%	A 90-100%	360-400 points
Participation	10%	B 80-89%	320-356 points
Scavenger Hunt	10%	C 70-79%	280-316 points
Daily Journal	20%	D 60-69%	240-276 points
Newspaper Essays	20%	F 0-59%	0-236 points
Final Essay	25%		
Total	100%		

Tentative Class Schedule: Weeks 1 & 2

Date	Morning (9 to 12)	Afternoon (12 to 5)	Evening (5 to 9)
Fri. 12/26	Travel Day		
Sat. 12/27	Arrival and Orientation		
	Coach to Hotel	Walking Tour TBD	Faculty Meeting
Sun. 12/28	London, Crime, and Lost Children		
	Orientation	Bow Street Museum	Foundling Museum
Mon. 12/29	Colonialism and Slavery: Abolition and Exploration		
	Museum of the Docklands	Greenwich Exploration	River Cruise
Tue. 12/30	Full-Day Group Excursion by Coach		
	Dover Castle		
Wed. 12/31	Death and Ceremony		
		Highgate Cemetery	
Thu. 1/1	War and Imperialism		
	Churchill War Rooms	Churchill War Rooms	
Fri. 1/2	Government, Revolutions, and War		
	Parliament Tour	Troubles Walk	
Sat. 1/3	Torture, Execution, and Murder		
	Tower of London		Jack the Ripper
Sun. 1/4	Explore with Intent Day		
Fri. 1/5	Poverty, Disease, and Drama		
	Darkest Victorian Walk	Old Operating Theater	Globe Performance
Sat. 1/6	Prisons and Art		
	Pre-Departure	The Clink Prison	National Gallery
Sun. 1/7	Travel Day		

*Planned activities are subject to change due to availability and scheduling.

Scavenger Hunt List- (Complete list to be determined)

<i>1 point</i>	<i>3 points</i>	<i>5 points</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ torch snuffer ○ fire mark ○ security camera ○ barbed fence ○ Blue Plaque ○ Old Bank of England Pub ○ The Globe ○ Mayfair Spy Lamppost ○ Broad Street Pump ○ Cutty Sark ○ Old City Hall ○ Tower Bridge ○ Roundhouse Pub ○ Lamb and Flag Pub ○ Statue of Oliver Cromwell ○ An American flag ○ A Royal guard ○ English Flag ○ Scottish Flag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Statue of Abraham Lincoln ○ Statue of Martin Luther King Jr. ○ Statue Of Mahatma Gandhi ○ HMS Belfast ○ Millennium Bridge ○ Fire station ○ Roman wall ○ Gough Square Cat ○ Man In Rigging of Cutty Sark ○ Danger Mouse Home ○ 221b Baker Street ○ Soviet WWII Memorial ○ Tyburn Tree plaque ○ Ferryman's seat ○ penny chute ○ Speakers corner ○ Fart lamp ○ Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ○ Paddington Bear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Herbert Spencer's grave ○ Karl Marx's grave ○ Princess Diana Memorial Fountain ○ London Fire Memorial ○ Fulfill the requirements to become a member of the John Snow Society (does not cost money) ○ Tower Bridge Up! ○ Prospect of Whisby noose ○ Mercer's Maiden ○ A car worth over \$500,000 ○ sewer stink-pipe ○ Jeremy Bentham's auto-icon ○ TARDIS ○ English Bull Dog