



BRITISH LITERATURE

Master in English and American Language, Literature and History

Faculty of Liberal Arts

Course information

Master year 1 24 HOURS

Fall Semester 5 ECTS

Seminars (S)

Professor: Estelle Murail (PhD. King's College London and Paris Diderot University, France)

Course description

Nineteenth-century media created visions of London and Paris that have continued to occupy the collective imagination and could be said to be the blueprint for a certain fantasy of present-day urban space. We will be shifting between modernity's first representations of the city in the nineteenth century and the hyper-modern conceptions of city space today. The city can be taken in its largest sense of the polis, a structure of power, a collectivity, a society, or a community; it may imply the topography of the city space, or its brute materiality and the sensations and experiences it offers. We will be dealing with literature, film images, video clips, the Graphic Novel, painting and illustration and using historical as well as cultural and literary theory.

The aim of this course is to understand how present-day images and representations of the city are linked to much earlier ways of talking about and drawing the city. Our focus will be on how the individual or collective defines the city space and transforms it into literature, art or film. We will start from the premise that all cities are fantasized or imagined spaces and that they reflect the human need to project desires.

Course validation: 12-page term paper with full bibliography.