BTAN32004BA-K3-07

READING LONDON

BA, third year, 3 credits
Spring 2018

Wednesday 14.00-15.40
Room: 55

This course explores visions of London in contemporary literature and visual culture. The assigned literary texts include novels such as Brick Lane by Monica Ali, Neverwhere by Neil Gaiman, selected short stories by Doris Lessing and Tibor Fischer and excerpts from Ali’s In the Kitchen. Apart from reading fiction, students are invited to watch video clips and films which depict the city, such as The Invisible Woman (Ralph Finnes), Brick Lane (Sarah Gavron), and two episodes of the Hungarian short film Should I Stay/Should I Go set in London and New York. We are going to discuss topics such as urban culture, dislocation, nostalgia, urban fantasy, integration, gender, love, sexuality, mimicry, and collective memory.

REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance: no more than three absences are allowed. In the case of a longer absence (either due to illness, or official leave), the tutor and the student will come to an agreement of how to solve the problem.

Assigned reading: the seminar format and the reading requirements suppose that the assigned texts are read for the classes. Tests on the assigned readings can be expected at each seminar. The result of these tests contributes to the seminar grade (“small tests”: 10%). If you fail more than three such tests, your seminar is a failure (the grade is a one).

Participation in classroom discussions: the student is expected to take part in classroom discussions, and this activity contributes to the final seminar grades by 20% of the overall achievement. (The reader’s journal can be of great help in this respect.)

End-term test: an objective test on the works discussed during the term (50%). The test must be written at the time scheduled in the syllabus. Failing to do so will count as course failure, and only one re-sit test will be scheduled to make up for the failure. The test will have a pass limit: failing the test will count as course failure, and only one re-sit test will be scheduled to make up for the failure.

Presentation: students are expected to give a 10-15 minute presentation at the beginning of each class (20%). The presentation should address 2-3 issues raised by the reading assigned for the class and students should raise 2 questions at the end of the talk. The use of power point is highly encouraged.

Students should be aware of the fact that English proficiency contributes to their final grades.

TEXTS: available in the Institute Library or online (the latter indicated in the syllabus).
### Grading Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course components</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>classroom discussion</td>
<td>87-100% 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small tests</td>
<td>75-86% 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>presentation</td>
<td>63-74% 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>end-term test</td>
<td>51-62% 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>0-50% 1</td>
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</tbody>
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#### Week 1

- **Date**: 14 Feb
- **Topic**: No class!

#### Week 2

- **Date**: 21 Feb
- **Topic**: London in video clips

#### Week 3

- **Date**: 28 Feb
- **Topic**: Imperial Spaces: Women and Visibility in the City
  - *The Invisible Woman* (2013), dir. Ralph Fiennes. (Students have to watch the film at home)

#### Week 4

- **Date**: 7 March
- **Topic**: Love, Sexuality and the City 1

#### Week 5

- **Date**: 21 March
- **Topic**: Food Culture and London
  - Monica Ali, *In the Kitchen* (excerpts)

#### Week 6

- **Date**: 28 March
- **Topic**: Urban Fantasy
  - Neil Gaiman’s *Neverwhere*.

#### Week 7

- **Date**: 4 March
- **Topic**: Consultation week

#### Week 8

- **Date**: 11 April
- **Topic**: Nostalgia, Domesticity and the City 1
  - Monica Ali (2003), *Brick Lane* 1.1-244.

#### Week 9

- **Date**: 18 April
- **Topic**: Nostalgia, Domesticity and the City 2
  - Monica Ali (2003), *Brick Lane* 2.245-492 + the film (students have to watch the film at home)

#### Week 10

- **Date**: 25 April
- **Topic**: End-term test

#### Week 12

- **Date**: 2 May
- **Topic**: Hungarian Migrants and the City: London and New York
  - (students have to watch the films at home!)
    - [https://vimeo.com/86987539](https://vimeo.com/86987539)
Recommended readings

**General:**


**Recommended readings for individual classes and presentations:**

1. **London in Video Clips**
   No presentation

2. **The Invisible Woman**, dir. Ralph Fiennes:

3. **Doris Lessing, “Room”**; **“To Room Nineteen”**; **“Debbie and Julie”**:

4. **Tibor Fischer, “I Like Being Killed”**:

5. **Monica Ali, In the Kitchen**:

6. **Monica Ali, Brick Lane (novel)**:

7. **Monica Ali, *Brick Lane* (film):**


9. **Leave /Stay**
   [http://www.menjekmaradjak.hu/](http://www.menjekmaradjak.hu/)