



Literary London: The City, The Stories

Montgomery College, Fall 2022

Instructor: Ann Stephenson

Reading/Preparation List:

Please read texts or watch videos before coming to class each week.

Class 1: Introduction: Romans & Royals, Thames, Taverns & Tower An Overview of Life and Literature in London in Shakespeare's Age

- A short video on Shakespeare's life, talent, and The Globe Theater
<https://youtu.be/9P1IJqNDYjQ>
- A brief video by scholar Stephen Greenblatt on London in Shakespeare's time:
<https://youtu.be/i8iPAT75F0U>
- From John Evelyn's Diary, "The Great Fire of London" (1666) [John Evelyn's Fire of London \(The Diary of Samuel Pepys\) \(pepysdiary.com\)](http://www.pepysdiary.com)

Class 2: Charles Dickens and Victorian London

- Dickens, *Oliver Twist* – read the novel or watch a movie adaptation (there are many). The 2005 movie is good, as is the 1982 version which can be watched on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/srzTKguyAhq>

Class 3: Robert Louis Stevenson: Body Double/Dual City

- Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (novella)-- read the novella or watch a film adaptation. The 2021 film version by Liam Scott is low budget but remains true to Stevenson's tale.

Class 4: London, the World Wars, and Modernism

- Read selected stories, poems, and excerpts from Elizabeth Bowen, Virginia Woolf, and TS Eliot, provided by the instructor

Class 5: The Long Shadow of the War Years and Contemporary London

- Kate Atkinson, *Transcription* (novel)

Class 6: Today's London as Transnational Space

- Doris Lessing, short story "In Defence of the Underground," PDF provided by instructor
- Zadie Smith, short story "The Waiter's Wife," <https://granta.com/the-waiters-wife/>

For More information or help Email the Program Coordinator Eric Scharf
At Eric.Scharf@montgomerycollege.edu or Call 240 429 0180