COURSE DETAIL

ELECTRIC CITIES: THE EXPERIENCE OF MODERNITY IN LONDON, MELBOURNE, NEW YORK AND PARIS, 1870-1929

Country
United Kingdom - England

Host Institution
King's College London

Program(s)
King's College London

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Urban Studies History

UCEAP Course Number
173

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
ELECTRIC CITIES: THE EXPERIENCE OF MODERNITY IN LONDON, MELBOURNE, NEW YORK AND PARIS, 1870-1929

UCEAP Transcript Title
ELECTRIC CITIES

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units
4.00

Course Description

The cities of the late 19th and early 20th centuries surged with light, money, ideas, and people. New aspects of city life included the arrival of electric modes of mass transit, new technologies of communication, luminous arcades filled with consumer goods, and opulent palaces for commercial entertainment. Successive waves of newcomers sought a better life amidst the bright lights, swelling the cities with restless endeavor. Photographers, artists, poets, journalists and others looked to capture this era of rapid urban change, and make sense of the metropolitan spaces unfolding outwards and upwards before them. Where there was illumination there was also shadow. Amidst the dazzling opportunities offered by the metropolis could also be found its benighted citizens, those whom fortune did not favor. Outcasts and malcontents shared the city's public spaces, from time to time terrorizing middle-class imaginations. It is this tension of extremes – between the city filled with prospects and the city as the terminus of hope – that this course explores. Focusing on four cities where the possibilities and pitfalls of modernity were felt especially keenly, weekly readings and discussions seek to comprehend what it was like to experience profound transformations in urban living. Rather than try to understand the four case study cities in totality across more than half a century, the course offers specific excursions into the social and cultural histories of London, Melbourne, New York, and Paris.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
5AAH1055

Host Institution Course Title
ELECTRIC CITIES: THE EXPERIENCE OF MODERNITY IN LONDON, MELBOURNE, NEW YORK AND PARIS, 1870-1929

Host Institution Course Details
http://hhttps://www.kcl.ac.uk/abroad/module-options/electric-cities-the-experie…

Host Institution Campus
King's College London

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
History

Course Last Reviewed
2022-2023

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