

COURSE DETAIL

THE "SCIENCE OF OURSELVES:" MASS OBSERVATION AND EVERYDAY LIFE IN MODERN BRITAIN, 1937 TO TODAY

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)

History

UCEAP Course Number

144

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

THE "SCIENCE OF OURSELVES:" MASS OBSERVATION AND EVERYDAY LIFE IN MODERN BRITAIN, 1937 TO TODAY

UCEAP Transcript Title

LIFE IN MOD BRITAIN

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

In 1937, anthropologist Tom Harrison, poet Charles Madge and filmmaker Humphrey Jennings began a "scientific experiment" recruiting members of the public, to "systematically" observe the lives of ordinary Britons. The Mass Observation project ran from 1937-1966 and was reanimated in 1981 continuing to today. This course uses the Mass Observation archive – held at the University of Sussex and substantially digitized by Adam Matthew – and its unique collection of diaries, study directives, and social surveys to explore class, gender, emotions, and experience across the second half of the twentieth century to the present. It also offers students first-hand insight into the sources and methods available (life writing, surveys and "directives," social investigations, oral histories) for interrogating constructions of gender, class, sexuality, race and ethnicity, age, ableism, and faith commitments over the last eighty years.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

5AAH1096

Host Institution Course Title

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Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/abroad/module-options/the-science-of-ourselves-mass-obs-...>

Host Institution Campus**Host Institution Faculty**

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

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