British Studies

(Courses at the Paul Mellon Centre in London)

During the spring term, the Yale in London program at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, located in central London, offers four courses in British studies generally including British history, history of art or architecture, literature, and drama. Students take all four courses offered, and courses taught at the Paul Mellon Centre must be taken for a letter grade. Further information is available on the program’s website. Inquiries may also be directed to yaleinlondon@yale.edu. The application deadline for spring term 2020 is Friday, October 4, 2019. Students will be notified of acceptance within one month of the application deadline. Inquiries about the summer program, described in The Undergraduate Curriculum, should be directed to the same address. Applications for summer 2020 are due Friday, February 14, 2020.

* BRST 154b, Modern British Theater  Staff
Introduction to London theater, as possible through current productions of classic and contemporary works, including commercial, subsidized and alternative theater; productions from the National Theatre and the best of the fringe. Examination of theatrical conventions and historical and cultural contexts of the plays; the economics of the theater in London; and the political and social implications of the stories the plays tell. Focus on engaging with behind the scenes work of British theater as well as viewing performances.  WR, HU

* BRST 195b, The Golden Age of Painting in Britain  Mark Hallett
This course offers an in-depth introduction to what has been described as a ‘Golden Age’ of British painting, which is bookended by the work produced by two especially inventive and ambitious artists: William Hogarth and J.M.W. Turner. This ‘Golden’ period, which runs from the middle of the eighteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth century, saw a dramatic expansion of the visual arts in Britain, and the emergence of a new, vibrant exhibition culture in London. Students study the works and careers of the major artists who rose to prominence in this era, including Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Gainsborough, Angelica Kauffman, John Constable and David Wilkie, as well as Hogarth and Turner themselves. We take the chance to look at these artists’ remarkable pictures in the flesh, and to think about them in relation to a wide range of themes, including gender, race, sexuality, celebrity, display, and performance.  HU

* BRST 211b / ENGL 243b, Queen Victoria and Royal Representations  Margaret Homans
What made the Victorian era “Victorian?” This course studies Victorian literary and visual culture by investigating Queen Victoria’s role as a monarch and empress who was also a wife, widow, and mother. Readings include Lewis Carroll’s Alice books, fiction by Margaret Oliphant and George Eliot, and the queen’s own writings.  WR, HU

* BRST 212b / ENGL 254b, Virginia Woolf’s London  Margaret Homans
This course considers Virginia Woolf’s London novels in the context of the lively groups of artists, writers, and local and international political activists in the London of her day. Topics include her experiments with literary form, her approaches to questions of sexuality, gender, race, and imperialism, and her legacy today.  WR, HU