

Spring 1-15-2015

## EIU 4114G-001: London Society & Underworlds

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# Culture Matters: London Society & Underworlds before Jack the Ripper

EIU 4114G, T & Th 3:30—4:45, Coleman Hall 3609, Newton Key & Jad Smith  
Humanities Senior Seminar, Spring 2015; [Syllabus as pdf](#) (brief version)

The astonishing growth of London—virtually the largest city in Europe by 1700—brought luxuries and benefits. London's growth also brought vices and raised modern questions about morality, poverty, and order. How did Londoners identify and try to solve conspiracy, clubbing, gang, and crime problems then, and how might we use our expertise drawn from any major or discipline to use or revise their ideas about urban issues now? This humanities senior seminar introduces the intellectual, cultural, economic, and especially social development in this metropolis a century before Jack the Ripper and before a unified police force, with a particular emphasis on crime in the 1600s and 1700s. The course is inter- or cross-

Available from Textbook Services:

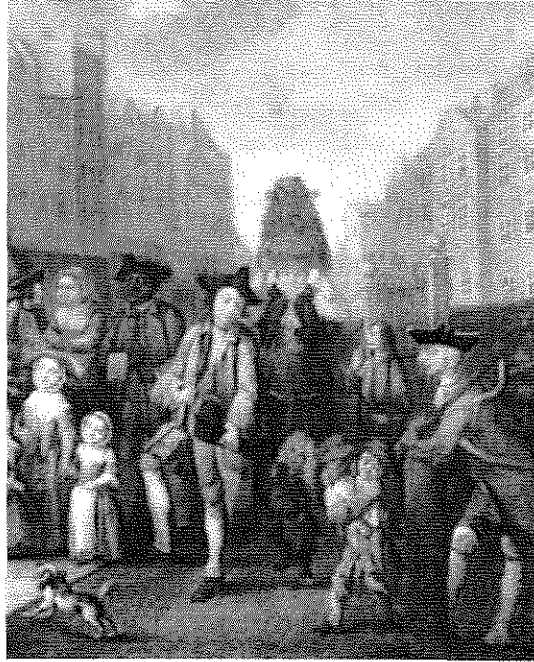
- Bucholz & Ward. Bucholz, Robert O. and Joseph P. Ward. *London: A Social and Cultural History, 1550-1750*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. [17.916]
- Damrosch et al. Sherman, Stuart, ed. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature, Volume 1C: The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century*. Gen eds. David Damrosch and Kevin J.H. Dettmar, 3rd ed. New York: Longman, 2006. [27.735]
- Defoe, Daniel. *Moll Flanders*. Ed. Edward Kelly. New York: WW Norton & Co, 1973. [23.080]
- Hitchcock. Hitchcock, Tim. *Down and Out in Eighteenth-Century London*. London: Continuum, 2007. [17.917]
- Additional readings (available as handouts or in EIU Online/Brightspace)

disciplinary both in the sources used—literary, legal, visual—and in the methods of analysis—literary, historical.

## Unit I Mapping the Metropolis

"In a West end town a dead end world  
The East end boys and West end girls."  
("West End Girls," Pet Shop Boys)

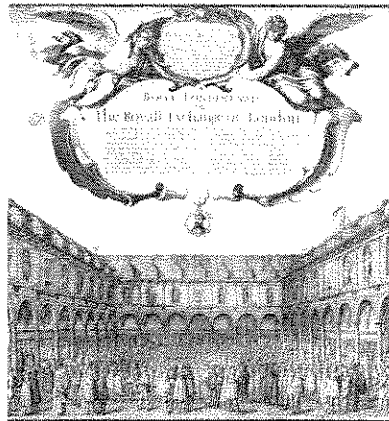
How do we envision a city? How did pre-modern Londoners envision their city? How does the historian map London? How does literature map London?



John Collet, *May Morning* (1760)

### week 1. Introducing London

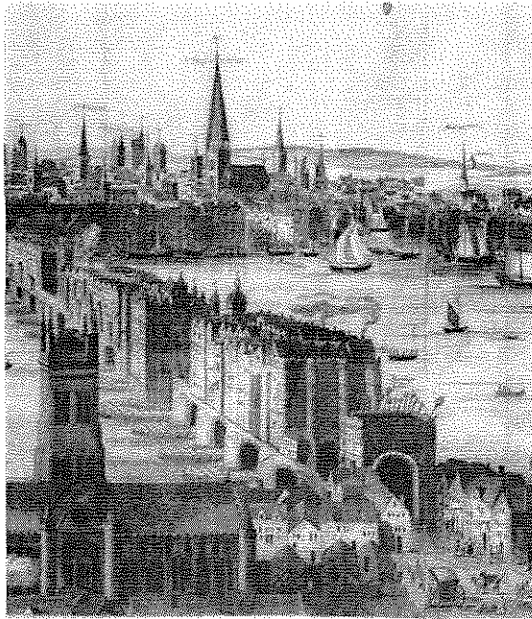
- Jan. 13. Why study cities? criminals? the poor?
- Jan. 15. Bucholz & Ward, Intro. ("London's Importance")



Wenceslaus Hollar, *Royal Exchange* (1644)

## week 2. Mapping London

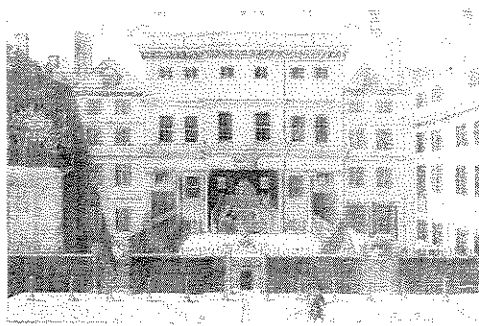
- Jan. 20. Bucholz & Ward, chs. 1-2 ("London in 1550," "The Socio-Economic Base")
- Jan. 22. Hitchcock, ch. 1 ("Streets of London")



Claes Van Visscher, London panorama (1616, detail)

## week 3. Visualizing London

- Jan. 27. Understanding Visual Culture (as assigned, see course site EIU Online)
- Jan. 29. **Mapping London Project due**

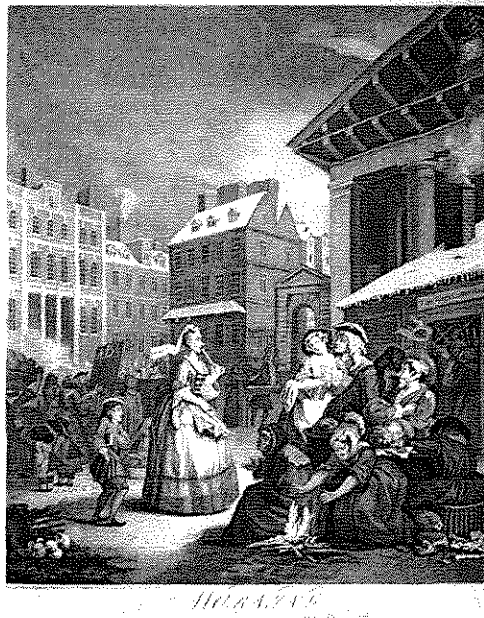


Old Bailey Sessions House (c. 1680, print from 1750)

## Unit II The Drama of Urban Crime

How does law enforcement differ between the early 18th and the early 21st centuries? What specific issues do crime and the "dark figure" (criminals for which we have no

record) have for the student of an early modern metropolis such as London? What does literature tell us? What does art?



William Hogarth, *Morning* (1738)

#### week 4. Visualizing Crime

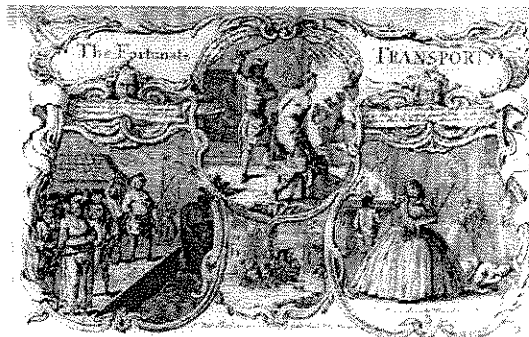
- Feb. 2. Hogarth, in Damrosch et al. and elsewhere (as assigned), "Crime, Justice and Punishment: The Historical Background to the Proceedings of the Old Bailey"
- Feb. 4. Gay, *The Beggar's Opera* (1728), in Damrosch et al. (as assigned)



William Hogarth, *A Scene from The Beggar's Opera* (1731)

#### week 5. The Drama of the Court and the Gallows

- Feb. 10. TBA
- Feb. 12. Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*, in Damrosch et al. (as assigned)



## week 6. The Mob, Riots, and Social Crime

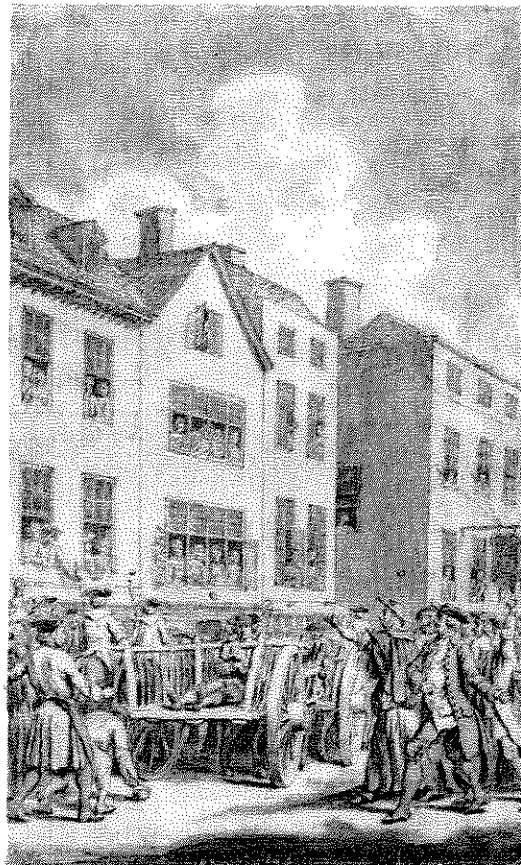
- Feb. 17. Bucholz and Ward, ch. 7 ("Riot & Rebellion"); "[Researching Crime](#)"
- Feb. 19. Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*, in Damrosch et al. (as assigned)



**William Hogarth, from *Hudibras* (1725/26)**

## week 7. Thieves and Thief-taking

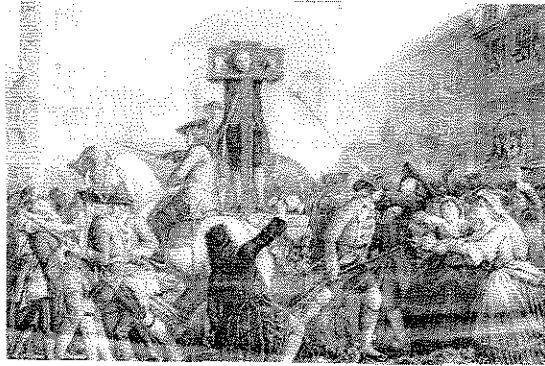
- Feb. 24 *The Beggar's Opera* and Its Time, in Damrosch et al. (as assigned)
- Feb. 26. Introduction to Mapping Criminal Case Histories Project; "[How to Read an Old Bailey Trial](#)"



**Jonathan Wild and angry Londoners on the way to his execution (1725)**

## week 8. Drama in the Long-18th Century

- March 3 TBA
- March 5. **Urban Crime Drama Project due;** Hitchcock, intro. & ch. 1



Daniel Defoe in the pillory

## Unit III – London Criminal and Poor Underworlds

Who are the people on the margins and where are they? Do they affect history or are they affected by it? Beyond the poor and the street, this section examines bawdy houses (and the bawdy house riots of 1668), molly houses, coffee-houses, and clubs.



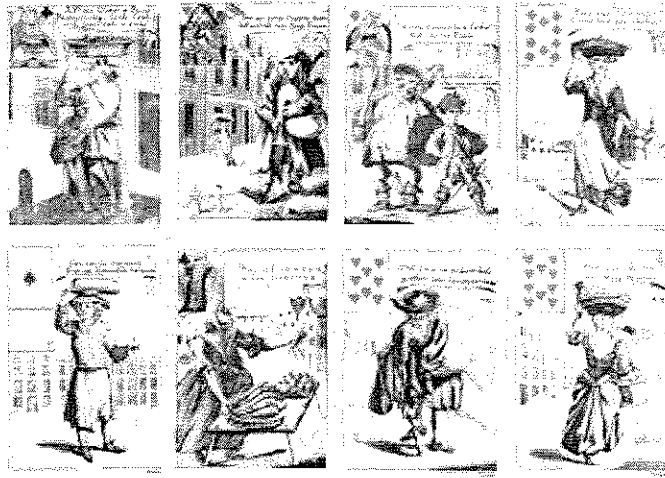
gallows ticket (1725)

## week 9. Being Poor in London

- March 10.

Hitchcock, chs. 2-3;  
Bucholz & Ward, ch.  
6

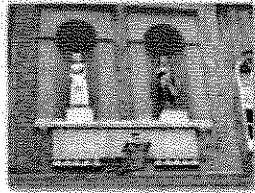
- March 12.  
Hitchcock, chs. 4-5



**Cries of London (18th cent. playing cards)**

week 10. Narrating the  
London Poor

- March 24. Charity,  
TBA
- March 26.  
Hitchcock, ch. 10



**Charity girl and boy, Wall of St. John's School, Wapping (est. 1695)**

week 11. Londoners and  
Non-Londoners

- March 31.  
Wycherley, *The  
Country Wife*  
(1675), Damrosch  
et al. (as assigned)
- April 2. Wycherley,  
*The Country Wife*  
(1675), Damrosch  
et al. (as assigned)



**William Hogarth, Moll Hackabout arrives in London (1731/32)**

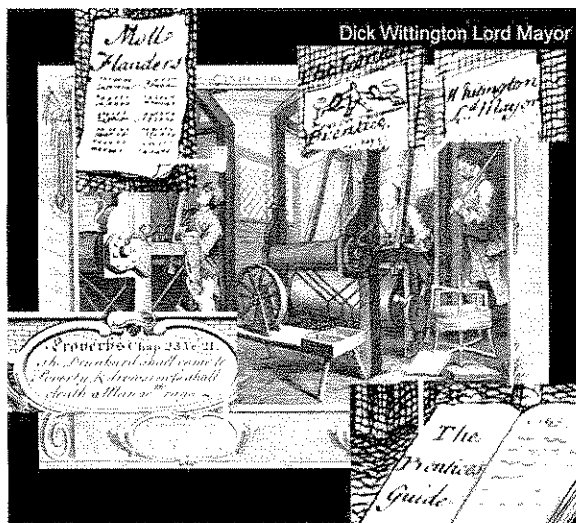
week 12. London  
Drinking, London  
Commensality, London



## Crime

- April 7. TBA
- April 9. Women and Men, Manners and Marriage (newspapers, 1690s-1710s), in Damrosch et al. (as assigned)

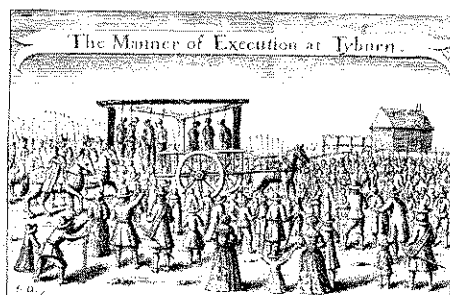
### Ned Ward, *The CoffeeHous Mob* (1710)



## week 13. Gendered Spaces

- April 14, 16. Defoe, *Moll Flanders* (excerpt); Defoe, *Roxana*, in Damrosch et al. (as assigned)

### William Hogarth, *The Fellow 'Prentices at their Looms* (1747)

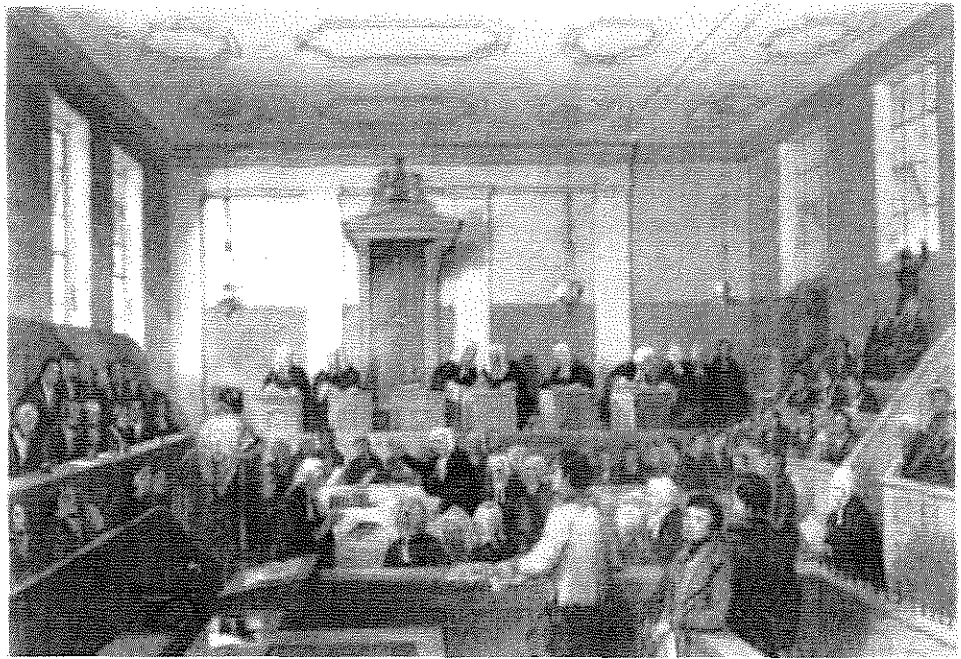


## Unit IV – Final Projects

### Manner of Execution at Tyburn (17th century)

week 14. Past & Present;  
the Literary & the  
Historical

- April 21, 23.  
  Readying  
  Presentations  
  (groups)



week 15. Getting Out the  
Word

- April 28, 30.  
  **Presentations**

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[requirements, papers,  
and exams](#)

[office hours](#)

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**last modified on January 17, 2015**