“In people’s eyes, in the swing, tramp, and the trudge; in the bellow and the uproar; the carriages, motor cars, omnibuses, vans, sandwich men shuffling and swinging; brass bands; barrel organs; in the triumph and the jingle and the strange high singing of some aeroplane overhead was what she loved; life; London; this moment of June.”

_Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway_

**Purpose**

plays, exhibitions, musical performance, dance, galleries, lectures, with history cheek by jowl with the predictive: with hard fought politics and contemporary culture. Multicultural as few places are, it is clearly one of the great world cities. And, by American standards, it is in close proximity to those places in England we would also like to explore: to have a sense of the *spirit of place* as it shapes the fictive and visual imagination.

**Required Courses**

**English 331Y: Modern British Literature**, taught by the Director, Jane Pinchin

London is a city that in the first third of the twentieth century was influenced intellectually and artistically by the Bloomsbury Group—the name by which we know an astonishing group of friends, like-minded thinkers, world leaders, that included the writer Virginia Woolf, the economist Maynard Keynes, the novelist E.M. Forster, the biographer Lytton Strachey, artists Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell, Carrington, art critics Roger Fry and Quentin Bell and others whom we refer to collectively through place: Bloomsbury, WC1. The center of London in the first decades of the twentieth century, as T.S. Eliot saw it, was Virginia Woolf and her circle. It is that spirit of place that we will trace in London and in those parts of England where Bloomsbury went: Charleston the country house that itself became a canvas for the artists of Bloomsbury; Kings College Cambridge where so many began their intellectual lives and life-long friendships. And other geographies like St. Ives, Cornwall—sites for biography and fiction. Works will include *Mrs. Dalloway*, *To the Lighthouse*, *Orlando*, *Howards End*, *Maurice*: works set in London and the surrounding countryside, as well as painting, decorative art, and biography.

**English 308 Y: Periods in British Literature**, taught by the Director.

This course will focus on England and the spirit of place in fiction and the visual arts. Fictive works will include *Wuthering Heights*, *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, *Hard Times*, *Sons and Lovers*, *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Students will be encouraged to explore sites central to these works and the writers who created them. The course will also include extensive museum study, with regular group travel to the museums of London—the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, The Tate, The Tate Modern, The Courtauld, as well as student independent travel to museums around England like the Manchester City Gallery and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

**English 332Y: London Theater**, taught by the English playwright and director David Pinner. This course allows students to see and discuss approximately 10 plays in London—from the works of the Royal Shakespeare Company to fringe
theater. Actors, critics, stage designers and directors are often a part of class discussion.

**English 336Y: Public Life, Public Health, Public Buildings**, taught by Ruth Richardson, Research Officer at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London and a regular BBC Broadcaster on matters of History of Medicine. This course uses London literally as a laboratory for the study of how nineteenth-century ideas affected the architecture of the city, from its sanitary system (an essential way to prevent cholera epidemics); to its social-engineering of “cultural” venues designed to “improve” the working classes; to London’s grandest self-presentation in public architecture. Students will collaborate on weekly research presentations and will also produce individual term projects on a building or other structure—graveyard, bridge, public square, underground railway station, prison, hospital, monument, etc.—of their own choosing.

**Field Trips**

We will take two trips (one extended weekend, one four days)—first to Cambridge, and then to the South East: through Kent and Sussex, and to Cornwall: to the Charleston Farm, the Woolf house in Lewes, to Knowle, to St. Ives. Students will also travel independently to one of the sites of the works studied in English 308, to Haworth Parsonage or Hardy country, for example. Three day weekends will make these trips possible. And we will of course take excursion together around London—and will use the home of the directors of the English and Economics study groups as a starting place for many of these visits, often combining activities for the two groups.

**Classrooms and Libraries**

Florida State University’s London Study Centre in the heart of, yes, Bloomsbury, just blocks from the British Museum, provides us our classrooms, although we will clear use London, its museums, theaters, streets, as the site of our study. The FSU London Study Centre also houses a modest library and computer facilities available to students. Privileges at various archives and libraries will be arranged as needed for history and literature projects, but for day-to-day purposes, students should plan to use their local branch libraries.

**Costs**

A group flight on British Airways from New York to London will be available to students who choose it. Students who wish to spend part of the summer in Europe may wish to make their own plans. In London students will need to commute from their lodgings to classes and to museums and theaters around the city. Monthly transportation passes, for both bus and underground, are available and the best bet for getting around town. Students will also need extra funds for personal expenses on field trips. Housing in London is higher than in Hamilton, but Colgate has made arrangements with an agency in London to provide students with affordable flats. Food costs are also higher although there are many ways to make eating in-or-out fabulous and inexpensive. Textbooks for the English courses will be available at the Colgate bookstore. It is much cheaper to purchase texts here and ship or carry them over than to buy them in London.

**Prerequisites and Selection Criteria**

Application is open to all students who have completed at least two English courses at the 200 level or their equivalent. Priority will be given to declared concentrators in English who will be in their junior year during the London program. Occasionally a senior is accepted. Academic and administrative references and an interview with the Study Group director will be required along with the application. Applications will be available in the English Department, and the Study Group Office. Deadline for application: 12/15/03.