Number of Hours/Credits: 45 hours/3 credits

Prerequisites: One of the following level 5 on English Department Placement Test, or advanced placement in English. High level of fluency. Additionally, all students need the approval of the professor and the ability to engage in the travel portion of the course. Cost of travel must be met in a timely manner.

Students must have a valid passport.

Co-requisites: None

Catalog description:
A combination of study and travel in which students will be able to encounter the places, cultural artifacts, and history of subjects in the study of literature, communication, or linguistics. Different variants of study trips will be offered to give students the experience of travel to the countries of the literature, communication, or linguistics studied and give them the opportunity to engage directly with the culture, language, discourse, history, art, architecture of the periods, authors or types of literature, or to acquire first hand experience of the communication or linguistic topic being studied.

Objectives: The course will be a combination of pre-trip lecture/discussion sessions, where students will prepare for what they will encounter during the travel part of the course. Students will engage in readings, research and discussion of the subject area of the travel experience and prepare for the final research paper. They will thus become familiar with the geography, culture and history of the target culture.

Specific objectives: At the end of the course, the students will

1. have acquired first hand experience in the target culture—English, American, Caribbean, African, etc.;

2. know the traditions and conventions, and methods of study of the subject dealt with in the course;
3. recognize the major themes, issues, and historical events that relate to the travel they have done and the subject they have studied;

4. read with understanding and intelligence the literature which has been studied and/or acquired first hand experience with such aspects of linguistic or communication interest as have been studied;

5. have visited key locations in the country of origin of the literature, communication or language under study;

6. have conducted research into and written essays on the works, writers, and/or background of the literary, communication, or linguistic subject of the course;

7. know the basic research tools, including electronic sources, for delving more deeply into the subject;

8. understand the importance of the historic, cultural and other artifacts and their context on the literature, communication issue, or language being studied.

**Note:** Because this is an umbrella course in which different subjects will be taught in the three principal areas of study of the English Department and will include both graduate and undergraduate students at different times, **students may take this course up to three times for a total of nine credit hours.** Literature variants would be acceptable in lieu of 4000-level courses for the major in literature. Some trips could combine two areas of study for two variants and a total of six credit hours. Students would be able to register in two sections at once if such were the case.

Proposals for variants will be submitted to the Curriculum Committee for undergraduate students and to the Graduate Committee for graduate students. Graduate students must consult their programs if they wish for graduate credit to be adjudicated.

**VARIANT, SCHEDULE AND TIME DISTRIBUTION:** London and the Theater from 1550 to the present. (This variant was approved in 2003 when the first study trip was conducted. The following is the refined, 2007-2008 Second semester variant to be offered next term.)

This variant of the course focuses on British theater, from the Renaissance to the present, providing students with the opportunity to attend professional productions in one of the world’s great theatrical cities. The primary interest will be theater of the earlier periods, but will also give an idea of contemporary theater, while providing an opportunity for students to observe English
life and culture, experience art in some of the greatest museums in the world, learn about history, and experience London, Bath and Stratford-upon-Avon as places significant in cultural and literary history, while glimpsing every day life in England. Plays depend on availability at the time of travel.

12 hours of pre-travel lecture/discussion sessions, met by agreement with the students.

30 hours of academic activities on the trip to London, Bath and Stratford-upon-Avon, including about twenty hours of theatrical performances (seven performances), visits to museums and historical sites.

3 hours post-travel lecture/discussion session and presentation of research papers.

This trip to London, Bath, and Stratford-upon-Avon (Shakespeare’s home town) will focus on the theater in England, from the Renaissance to the present, and will incorporate as many performances of plays of the early periods as is possible. Since it is unlikely that there will be seven plays from the 1570 to 1800 period at the time of visit, the students will also go to contemporary plays, including plays of international interest in theater history. The students will also visit key sites in London, Bath and Stratford associated with the theater and its history, the history of the city of London and Southwark, the traditional site of theaters in the Renaissance, including a visit to the new Globe, Covent Garden and Drury Lane, the theater district since the Restoration. There will be a workshop at the Globe and a backstage tour. Students will also visit key historical and cultural sites in London such as The Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, the British Museum, the Museum of London, and others to be chosen by consensus. A great bonus is that most museums in London are free. Among the treasures are: the two Tates, Tate Britain (lots of Blake and Pre-Raphaelites) and Tate Modern, an award winning redesign of an old industrial building, right next to the new Globe, the National Gallery (major holdings in Old Masters and traveling exhibits—which have a modest charge of entry), the National Portrait Gallery (where history and literature come alive as one views the faces of the people we study), and many, many others.

Specific plays will be chosen according to availability during the time of the trip from March 13 to 23, 2008. Plays will be announced as they become known and tickets are reserved.

London and the Theater from 1550 to the present.
Students will read and discuss the plays to be seen, other related plays or other works if pertinent, as well as critical material; they will also read reviews of the plays they attend. Each student will write three reviews of the plays they see in England, prepare an annotated bibliography on one of the plays, and write a critical paper which will bring
together the materials researched and the experience from the travel portion of the course.

Class Schedule: (Plays always vary according to what is being shown.)

First lecture session:
Introduction to drama, history of drama, and English dramatic development, with emphasis on the actual geography of London and its environs. Focus on sites to be visited as well as the historical London areas associated with the theater. List of plays to be viewed will be distributed and texts assigned. Discussion of one or two of the plays to be seen.

Logistical arrangements will also be discussed in this session and the others, as necessary. Students will introduce themselves and interact with each other in order to create the group coherence necessary for a smooth and pleasant travel experience.

Second lecture session:
The development of the English theater from the Renaissance to the eighteenth century, with emphasis on acting, venues, and acting companies; Tudor drama (including the Elizabethan age) and the Elizabethan theater. Discussion of the forms of drama and their development in the time span considered. Discussion of one or two of the plays to be seen.

Third lecture session:
The geography of London: Renaissance London; early Restoration London; London after the Great Fire of 1666. The public and private theaters of the Renaissance, and the new houses after the Restoration. Relation of these to the modern theaters of Covent Gardens and Drury Lane. (Use of Films for the Humanities videos in the Filmoteca, Biblioteca Lazaro on the History of the City of London.) Discussion of one or two of the plays to be seen.

Fourth lecture session:
Continue discussion of the history of London, Bath and Stratford-upon-Avon, especially as they pertain to the theater. Discussion of the cultural, economic and class divisions of the geography of London from the 1500s to the present and the importance of Bath as a cultural and social center especially in the eighteenth century. Study of period and modern maps to help students understand the development of the
city. Discussion of one or two of the plays to be seen.

**Trip to London and Stratford, from March 13-23, 2008.**

**Fifth lecture session**
Near the end of the term the students will meet to discuss their experiences, report on their research findings and evaluate the course. Suggestions for improvement of itinerary or other aspects of the course will be welcomed.

**Teaching Strategies:** Lecture 15%, Discussion 20%, Viewing plays 50%, Museums and other cultural experiences 15%.

Students who receive services from Vocational Rehabilitation should contact the professor at the beginning of the term so that reasonable accommodation can be arranged and any necessary equipment be acquired as per the recommendation of the Deanship of Student Affairs. Those students with special needs who require any special help or accommodation should also communicate with the professor. (Los estudiantes que reciben servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el profesor al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equip asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el profesor.) Ley 51.

**NOTE:** London, like most European cities, often has areas where wheelchairs are not a feasible means of movement. Lots of stairs, many tube (subway stations) which don’t have escalators or lifts (elevators) make movement difficult for students with movement difficulties. Please be aware of this before signing up for the course.

**Grading System**  A, B, C, D, or F

**Class evaluation and relative weight of work:** reviews of plays and annotated bibliography,
20%, class participation and attendance to activities on trip, 40%, research paper, 40%. (NB: Evaluación diferenciada a estudiantes con necesidades especiales. Ley 51)

**Resources and Equipment Required**
A TV/VCR or TV/DVD will be used for a number of class sessions.

**Texts:** Plays, to be announced. Guide book to London or to England. List of possible choices to be provided.

**ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE BY THE TIME THEY ARE REQUIRED. FULL PAYMENT OF BALANCE (MINUS $200 DEPOSIT DUE IN NOVEMBER) WILL BE DUE 45 DAYS BEFORE TRAVEL.**

A Blackboard site under the course name and number is available to list materials. Site address is [http://virtual.uprrp.edu](http://virtual.uprrp.edu).

**Bibliography:**
Varies with each trip, depending on plays to be viewed.

**GUIDE BOOKS AND WEBSITES (for above variant):**


Blanca Lopez, 2004 group, with Judi Dench
london.htm


“London” BBC. http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/yourlondon/london_history/index.shtml


