

**Immigrant, Hidden, and Sinister London: Theatrical and Literary Representations**  
**Syllabus for Spring 2012 London program**  
Professor Natania Rosenfeld, Knox College

**Course description:**

This course will focus on the representation of London's geography, sociology and politics in English theatre and literature, with a particular emphasis on immigrant London, hidden London, and sinister London. At the center of the course will be attendance at a wide range of theatre productions in London: in the West End, at the National Theatre, at fringe productions, and at the Globe Theatre. We will begin with Shakespeare and take in plays at the Globe, and wrap up with recent East End chronicles such as Monica Ali's *Brick Lane* and Rachel Lichtenstein and Iain Sinclair's *Rodinsky's Room*, which tells the story of a strange house on Princelet Street which we will visit.

**Theatre productions:**

Although the schedule for attending performances has not been set (nor the titles of the plays), we will plan to attend one or two productions a week. In addition to London productions, we will also travel to Stratford-upon-Avon, where we will likely see two productions at the theatre complex in Stratford. We will be discussing the productions, as well as the texts of the plays, before and after attending the plays. The cost of theatre tickets is included in the program fee, and attendance at productions is mandatory.

**Some likely texts:**

Medieval London: Shakespeare, *Richard III*

Romantic London: William Blake, Wordsworth, et al –poems

Victorian London: Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend*

Inter-war London: Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Postcolonial London: Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*

Archaeological, Hidden and East End London: Rodinsky and Lichtenstein, *Rodinsky's Room* (selections); Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*; W.G. Sebald, *Austerlitz* (selections)

**Schedule of Assignments and Classes**

Please note that these are subject to adjustment according to the availability of seats at particular productions in particular weeks. Thus, we may have to accept a jumbling of chronology and see, for instance, a medieval play in the 6<sup>th</sup> week and a modern one in the first. Particulars will be available in the month or so before the course begins.

**Assignments**

Students should expect to turn in a weekly journal on the readings and theatre productions and to write two papers, one on the shorter side (5-6 pages) and one longer and including research on the history, topography or sociology at the end of the course (12-15 pages).