

**Dr. Martin Meenagh comments on his course:**

What I would like to do with this course is to give students a sense of how Britain has developed over the course of the past 120 years or so. By focusing on subjects such as the meaning of nationhood in a state covering at least four countries—England, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland, let alone the city state of London—students could gain insight into a type of political organisation not uncommon in Europe. We'll look at British social history, the collapse of a highly stratified and class ridden society, the impact and legacy of Empire, and how British law, politics and society works.

The course will also use London as a text. I'll direct you to major sights connected with British history, explain in what might seem novel ways how they intersect—what precisely the development of the underground has to do with attitudes to the police, and property, for instance—and show you how the greatest power in history was transformed by war, debt, and internal strain into a much reduced European player. Britain's troubled relationship and the underlying reasons for it will become clearer; and if you have ever wondered how things like economic theory, socialistic welfare systems, an unwritten constitution and parliamentary politics fit together, look no further.

I also want to give you a base to understand the traditions, narratives and stories lying beneath and behind famous London crimes and films. As an introduction to the UK, we'll start with the nineteenth century, move through London's roiling streets, follow through with the challenges of the twentieth century, and then try and explain what happened to Britain socially after the nineteen sixties.

It seems like a lot; but London is a wonderful city state and you'll find yourself becoming more and more familiar with Britain, and I'm sure caught with the bug of figuring out a society which is superficially similar and actually very different from most places in the USA. If you are already familiar with Britain, the course will deepen your knowledge and deliver new insights.

I have worked with many American students in Oxford and London as a tutor and lecturer. That means, if you are expecting a person in tweed to lecture at you, you may be pleasantly surprised. I am keen that you bring your questions and enthusiasm to our meetings and will be more than happy to guide you on your way in this world-city, and if you take up this course, I look forward to welcoming you to London.