Between 1560 and 1760 London grew from a modest city of c. 50,000 inhabitants to a metropolis of over 700,000 people - the largest city in Europe, the hub of an expanding British world, and one of the centers of world trade. This course will examine a range of aspects of this transformation, focusing upon the development of a distinctive urban society and culture. Selected readings from the secondary literature (a) will introduce each topic. Extracts from primary sources (b) will illustrate the types of source available for its exploration. In addition, the course will include original research exercises. The first paper (5 pp.) will be an exercise in the close analysis a body of primary source material specially transcribed for this course and provided in the course packet. In the second half of the course each student will be expected to contribute a short oral presentation (15 minutes maximum) to one of the sessions, presenting the results of their own research on an aspect of the topic under discussion. (Some possible themes for this exercise are illustrated below). The final paper (5 pp.) will be on a topic of the student’s choice, decided in consultation.

Assessment:

- Participation 10%
- First paper 35%
- Class presentation 20%
- Second paper 35%

N.B. All the readings and primary source material for each session are in the course packet.

In preparing for class presentation, or the second paper, students can also use a number of primary sources available on line:

- **A London Provisioner's Chronicle. 1550-1563** by Henry Machyn. Searchable. [http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/machyn/](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/machyn/)
- **The Diary of Samuel Pepys. 1660-1669** Full text and supplementary material. Searchable. [http://www.pepys.info/](http://www.pepys.info/)
- John Strype's **Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster** (1720). Searchable, with original maps etc. [http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/strype/](http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/strype/)
- **The Proceedings of the Old Bailey. 1674-1834**: Full records of cases heard at The Old Bailey, the central criminal court of London: fully searchable on-line at
http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/. This remarkable resource also contains several contemporary maps of London and the Ordinary of Newgate prison’s brief biographies of executed criminals. If we are lucky there will also be a new site at www.londonlives.org which will combine the criminal justice records of the Old Bailey with records of poor relief and medical provision, and makes possible the reconstruction of brief biographies of ordinary Londoners. This project, called “Plebeian Lives” was announced for Spring 2010, but has not yet appeared.


Eighteenth-Century Collections Online and Eighteenth-Century Journals: a wealth of material on the latter part of the period. Access via Orbis, as with EEBO.

Wenceslaus Hollar’s views & maps of London (and much more) online: http://link.library.utoronto.ca/hollar/

http://www.londonlives.org/ - a new site for 1690-1800

A. Syllabus

1. ‘Swarming London’: the growth and impact of the city

   Ch.10 Jeremy Boulton, "London 1540-1700" (pp. 315-46)
   Ch.19 Leonard Schwarz, "London 1700-1840" (pp. 641-671)


John Graunt, Naturall & Politicall Observations on the Bills of Mortality (1662), pp. 3-10, 49-53

Brief biographies of migrants to London (typescript in course packet).

[Afternoon walk down Strand/Fleet Street to St Paul’s - optional]
2. Birth and Death in London

(a) Roger Finlay, Population and Metropolis. The demography of London, 1580-1650 (1981), chs 6-7 (pp. 111-150)

Paul Slack, The Impact of Plague in Tudor & Stuart England (1985) ch. 6 (pp. 144-72)


John Graunt, Natural & Political Observations, pp. 30-36, 38-43


3. London’s Households


Paul Seaver, Wallington’s World. A Puritan artisan in 17th century London (1985 ch.4 (pp. 67-111)


London Church Court Depositions: Meade vs Sorrell (1633)

4. London’s Villages


5. Royal London


(b) The *royall passage of her Maiesty from the Tower of London to her palace of Whitehall* [originally 1559. This is the 1604 edition from EEBO] 29pp.


6. London Spaces


(c) Also display Hogarth engravings which depict specific places.

7. London’s Books and Readers


Example of an early newspaper: *Evening Post* 28-30 July 1724


L. Klein, “The Polite Town. Shifting possibilities of urbanness, 1660-1715”.


9. Respectable London: the 'middle sort of people'


Lorna Weatherill, Consumer Behaviour & Material Culture in Britain, 1660-1760 pp. 1-51 and tables comparing London with other towns and rural areas, pp. 76 and 88.


[Afternoon visit to National Portrait Gallery - optional]

10. London's Poor


Cases # 8, 12, 14, 15, 33, 40, 41, 42, 49 (see also linked 65, 82, 230, 243), 57, 85 (see also 244), 92, 98, 101, 107, 109, 124, 133, 163, 167, 193 (see also 196, 315), 195 (see also 266), 224, 238, 242, 269, 332, 360-364, 372, 396, 414.

[Second paper due session 11]

11. Sex - and Drink - and the City


F. Dabhoiwala, "The pattern of sexual immorality in 17th & 18th century London", in


(b) E. Mackie ed. The Commerce of Everyday Life, Selections from The Tatler and The Spectator (1998), pp. 115-122.

Latham ed. The Illustrated Pepys, pp. 54, 69, 69-70, 72, 75-6, 88, 92, 99-100, 103-4, 105, 106-7, 183, 234-5. And for the Deb Willett affair, see 212-13, 245, 263-72, 301-3.

12. London's Underworlds


(b) See suggested research exercises. I would like everyone to find something in the Proceedings of the Old Bailey to contribute to our discussion of crime.

Further reading:

The secondary literature on London is vast. For a comprehensive bibliography of both the historiography and printed primary sources, searchable by topic and keyword, see London’s Past Online:

http://www.rhs.ac.uk:80/bibl/london.asp
B. Suggested research exercises

These are suggestions. I have tried some of them and know that they yield interesting results. Others are more experimental. You may of course have ideas of your own – just consult with me.

Royal London

Search Machyn or Pepys for ‘Queen’ or ‘King’ and test how conscious these Londoners were of the doings or royalty.

Spaces/Places

- Use the Place and Map Search of the Proceedings of the Old Bailey to research the events recorded as taking place in a particular area. (The Rocque Map is particularly good for this). You can choose a parish known to you from the drop-down list (e.g. St Martin’s in the Fields) and from there move in closer to the specific locations offered (e.g. 96 are offered within St Martin’s) and then to the recorded events in that location (e.g. there are 95 references to events in Drury Lane between 1681 and 1760). Alternatively you can go immediately to a street, or group of streets via a known street name. Often the events described will reveal a good deal about the character of an area. In the more detailed cases a good deal of information is provided beyond the details of the actual crime.

- Use a Keyword Search for a particular kind of space or place e.g. ’coffee house’, ‘market’, ‘playhouse’, ‘conduit’, ‘alley’. You can also use phrases like “at the door” or “in the street”. (When there are simply too many results you can limit by date).

- Similar searches for particular places (e.g. Fleet Street) or particular keywords can be done using the online Pepys’ Diary.

- Use the full version of Boswell’s London Journal and the maps provided in Proceedings of the Old Bailey to reconstruct Boswell’s movements around the city for a week or month.

Books/Print/Reading

- Choose a book from the Short Title Catalogue of Printed Books (a good way of doing this randomly is to use your birth date as your number. Use EEBO to follow up: identify the author, printer and bookseller (from the details given on title pages) and then search EEBO by the name to reconstruct the history of that person’s activities – the books
produced, who he worked with, addresses from which he operated at different times, known partnerships etc. Quite often you can follow up further by using the appendix to the third volume of the Short Title Catalogue of Printed Books, or the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (available online) both of which contains brief biographical information on a fair number of significant printers and booksellers.

- Use Proceedings of the Old Bailey or the online Pepys' Diary to do a keyword or phrase search for e.g. 'bookseller', 'book', 'pamphlet', 'newspaper', 'reading'.

- Use one or more of the Newspapers in Eighteenth-century Journals to see what books were advertised for sale in a particular period and whether any significant pattern emerges.

**Polite society**

- Search in the databases using such keywords and phrases as 'ladies', 'gentleman', 'person of quality', 'coach'. Or try using significant locations in the West End.

- Use the full versions of the diaries of Samuel Pepys or James Boswell to analyze e.g. such things as their patterns of association; recorded conversations; entertaining; social anxieties

**The 'middle sort'**

- Try a keyword search for such terms as 'master', 'merchant' [or any other appropriate profession], 'credit', 'reputation', 'apprentice'.

**Consumption/material culture**

- Try a keyword search for 'shop', 'shopping', 'shoplifting', or for any particular type of goods (especially the significant new goods of the period).

**The Poor**

- The Chelsea settlement and Bastardy examinations provided in the course packet lend themselves to many forms of analysis of those petitioning for relief. Explore the social characteristics of the poor.

- Laboring people and street people frequently figure in the Proceedings of the Old Bailey, either accused of crimes or as witnesses, and much incidental information emerges to illuminate the world of the poor. Try keywords like 'poor', 'pauper', 'vagrant', 'beggar', 'pawn' etc.
Sex and Drink

- The Old Bailey did not police minor offences like prostitution or drunkenness (they were dealt with by lesser courts). However, some sexual offences were tried there – notably rape and sodomy (on the latter, see the website guide to researching homosexuality). More generally, the sex and drink trades make their appearance incidentally, but often in an illuminating manner. Use keywords like ‘alehouse’, ‘gin shop’, ‘prostitute’, ‘Bridewell’, ‘nightwalker’, or ‘woman of the town’. As you get familiar with the language of the times, others may occur to you, e.g. ‘pint of wine’ yields 492 references – to ask for, or offer, a ‘pint of wine’ was a common pick up line.

- London low life spawned a picaresque and voyeuristic literature: e.g. John Dunton’s *The Night Walker*, or evening rambles in search after lewd women (1696). You could research one or more such publications.

Crime

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey is the obvious source for all aspects of crime, and it can be used in many ways: e.g.

- choose any crime from the list on the website and look at the cases. Often there are so many that you will need to limit yourself to a particular decade or a particular area. (For instance there are 7,348 cases of pick-pocketing). You might want to choose a crime with particular associations which give it additional interest e.g. pick-pocketing associated with street children and women; shoplifting associated with women.

- choose a particular punishment from the lists e.g. transportation to the colonies; whipping; the pillory; execution, and explore its frequency, use, and sociology.

- the Ordinary’s Account published the confessions and brief biographies of executed persons as a kind of moral lesson. This can be explored in many ways: e.g. how many were apprentices ‘gone to the bad’ like Tom Idle in Hogarth’s famous engraving series “Industry and Idleness”? Or how far did London’s many seamen figure in crime? Or what about particular ethnic groups – French, Irish, Dutch etc (and see the website guide to researching other sub-communities in London)

- You can construct your own criminal biographies to some extent. A good key phrase to follow is “old offender”, the contemporary term for a recidivist.

- The disposal of stolen goods reveals a lot about the ‘black economy’ – see the keyword ‘pawned’.
Alternatively, search Machyn's chronicle or Pepys for a keyword like 'hanged', or 'whipped', or 'pillory'