Programme

A History of London 1066-1666

Details

Autumn term online live sessions: Wednesday, 25 September to 9 December 2024

Watch lecture recordings on demand, available at the end of each day, until Wednesday 5 March 2025

Overview

Medieval London was a walled city of crowded streets and lanes, open air markets and wooden and stone houses, its inhabitants living perilously and piously amid a skyline of a hundred church spires. With the V&A’s collections and curators for inspiration, on this twelve-week course we will explore its dynamic and fascinating history from the Norman Conquest to the Great Fire. A city of learning and richly skilled crafts, during this period London went from being the prosperous capital of an emerging kingdom on the periphery of Christendom to being one of the greatest cities of Europe, the centre of a growing mercantile empire which looked outward to the Atlantic and beyond. Already an ancient city at the dawn of the first millennium, London was firmly locked into a nexus of trade centering on the North Sea, with links to varied lands and peoples of Scandinavia and north-west Europe.

Your course leader

Mike Berlin is a lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London. He is a specialist in the social history of early modern London and has published extensively on the history of London’s guilds. Before joining Birkbeck, he was a research officer at the Centre for Metropolitan History, Institute of Historical Research.

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice
Week 1 – Wednesday 25 September 2024

Capital and Kingdom

10.20 Introduction

10.30 Anglo-Saxon London: From Lundenwic to Lundres John Clark

12:00 The Tower of London Tracy Borman

14.00 Mapping London and its Environs Peter Barber


Week 2 – Wednesday 2 October 2024

‘Capital of the Kingdom’: Medieval London

10.30 The King’s Chamber London and the Kingdom Mike Berlin

12.00 St. Paul’s and London’s Churches John Schofield

14.00 Westminster Abbey and Westminster Hall Sally Dormer

15.30 Spotlight Session: Opus Anglicanum Sally Dormer

Week 3 – Wednesday 9 October 2024

The ‘Splendour of its Citizens’

10.30 Crafts and Guilds Matthew Davies

12.00 Women, Work and the Family in Late Medieval London Vanessa Harding

14.00 Immigrant Communities in Late Medieval and Early Modern London Mike Berlin

15.00 Meet & Greet Mike Berlin

Week 4 – Wednesday 16 October 2024

‘The Flower of Cities All’: Renaissance London

10.30 Holbein and the Tudor Court Charlotte Bolland
12.00 Tudor Royal Palaces Caroline Knight
14.00 Ceremony and the City: Royal Entries and Lord Mayor’s Shows Mike Berlin

Week 5 – Wednesday 23 October 2024
‘The unquiet city’: London and the Reformation
10.30 London and the Reformation Mike Berlin
12.00 The Strand Palaces
14.00 London Gardens in the 17th Century

Week 6 – Wednesday 30 October 2024
Tudor and Stuart London: Court and City
10.30 The Early West End Mike Berlin
12.00 Shakespeare and the origins of the public theatre Giles Ramsay
14.00 Van Dyck and the Stuart Court Catharine MacLeod

Week 7 – Wednesday 6 November 2024
London as a Centre of Conspicuous Consumption
10.30 The City of London in the Early Modern Period
12.00 Re-discovering the Cheapside Hoard Hazel Forsyth
14.00 Textiles in Early Modern London
15.30 Spotlight Session: London Furniture 1570-1640: a New Marketplace of Imports and Immigrants Nick Humphrey

Week 8 – Wednesday 13 November 2024
London’s Port and Hinterland
10.30 The Thames: The Late Medieval and Tudor Port
12.00 The Growth of the East End as a Maritime Suburb Mike Berlin
14.00 A City of Villages: London’s Hinterland Mike Berlin
15.30 Spotlight Session: The Pasfield Jewel Mike Berlin

Week 9 – Wednesday 20 November 2024
‘Sink of Ill humours’: London and the Kingdom
10.30 London and the Civil War Mike Berlin
12.00 Cheapside Cross Christine Stevenson
14.00 Temple Bar

Week 10 – Wednesday 27 November 2024
The Treasure House of Knowledge
10.30 Pepys and London Kate Loveman
12.00 Pepys and the Dyrham Bookcase Kate Loveman
Artisans and Natural Philosophers seventeenth century London Mike Berlin

Week 11 – Wednesday 4 December 2024
Death and Disaster
10.30 The Black Death Barney Sloane
12.00 Church Monuments, Effigies and Death Nigel Llewellyn
14.00 Plague and Fire Vanessa Harding
15.30 Spotlight Session: Funerary Monuments Nigel Llewellyn
Week 12 – Wednesday 11 December 2024

*London Rebuilt*

10.30 ‘Resurgam’: Rebuilding after the Fire **Mike Berlin**

12.00 Cherry Ripe: Street Markets and Street Traders **Charlie Taverner**

14.00 Sports and Pastimes in Early Modern London **Mike Berlin**

15.00 Meet & Greet with **Mike Berlin**