**Fall 2017**

**HIS 235 London 1500-1900**

**Notes for class 1**

**Business**

Welcome, attendance and introductions

Course introduction

The myCourses page

Objectives and teaching methods

Course texts

Graded work

Preparation and participation

Come to every class prepared and on time

Be attentive, responsive, constructive

Don’t be disruptive

On field trips, keep up with me!

Portfolio of question sets

The first question set is already posted

Do the reading carefully and on time

Keep the questions in mind as you read

Make notes

Answer the questions

Avoid digressions and omissions

Organize your answers clearly

Write carefully, correctly, precisely

Revise and proofread

Final exam—long list of questions posted

Special policies

In the classroom

Arrive on time and don’t wander off

Pay attention and use laptops and phones only for classwork

Contribute constructively and be polite

Don’t extend the breaks!

On field trips

Wear walking shoes and bring weather gear

Always carry a valid travel ticket and a student card

Arrive on time and don’t wander off

Keep up with me and give the rest of London space

Pay attention and stay OFF your mobile phone

Extra Friday afternoon session: 1.30PM

The future

Immediately!

Explore the myCourses page

Read the course outline

Buy the set texts

Waterstone’s Online <https://www.waterstones.com/> has them all, and will deliver free to their Leadenhall Market branch

Next week

First reading should be done before the next class

The assignment is in the guide on our myCourses page

.pdf in week 2 module

Reading questions in Assignments on the myCourses page

We meet at the pillar in Paternoster Square

Map in week 2 module

**2-minute stretch**

**Thinking about history**

Defined: the systematic study of the human past

A temperamental choice: change vs continuity

Subjectivity, objectivity, relativism and history

No certainties/unavoidable subjectivities

Current cultural preoccupations

Individual temperament of historians

Generalizations and evidence: good answers, not right answers

Be wary of . . .

“Lessons from history”

The temptations of positivism: history is not always progress!

The constellation effect: Imposing patterns on randomness

Types of history: political, economic, social, cultural

Orders of historical magnitude: from micro to global

Periodization—convenient but arbitrary

Types and density of evidence

Prehistory and history

Evidential bias: winners, record-keepers, collectors

Evidence and uncertainty: how many died in the Great Fire?

**Some peculiarities of urban history**

The inherent instability and unsustainability of the city

A corollary: the need for outside support

A second corollary: the vital importance of communication

A third corollary: the vital importance of exchange

The city and the world

A necessary relationship

“Permanent” conditions

Geography

Climate

Natural resources

Temporary conditions

Politics

Technology

Culture

The problems of population density

The city and its surroundings

Economic relationships

The movement of goods

The movement of people

The movement of waste

Political relationships

Capitals

Border towns

Citizens and aristocrats

**10-minute break**

**Businesses have histories too: some key variables**

Ecology vs anatomy

Key categories

Staples and luxuries

Goods and services

Important variables

The size and distribution of surplus wealth

The size and character of the labour force

The medium of exchange and facilities for credit

Technologies of production

Technologies of transportation and distribution

Technologies of communication and information

Government and other regulatory frameworks

Government taxation frameworks

Culture

The five horsemen: long-term trends in business history

Marketization

Globalization

Technological development

Expansion of credit and limitation of liabilityliability

The spread of consumerism

**2-minute stretch**

**So in 1500, what was London like?**

A typical Western European urban economy

Guilds, markets, fairs, cries

The literal and figurative centrality of the Church

The Staple and the Pool

Aliens

Basic geography

City, Westminster, Borough, In-fill and fringe

Key Buildings

Tower, St Paul’s, Palace of Westminster, Abbey,

Monasteries, Bishop’s Palaces, Churches

Guildhall and guildhalls

Steelyard, Lombard St &c

Legacies: the Black Death, the Wars of the Roses

Mentality

The central role of the Church

Dominates cultural and social life

Links England with all of Christendom

Hierarchy, deference, status

Great Chain of Being

Sumptuary laws

Shakespeare on ambition

Looking back not forward

Fall from Grace

Reverence for ancient wisdom

Nostalgia for imperial stability and unity

Microcosms and macrocosms

Clouds on the horizon

Expanding Ottomans

New linkages: Da Gama and Columbus

Aggressive Catholicism of Spain

Gutenberg revolutionizes information

Luther splits the Church