The Oxford experience

September 4-17, 2016

A two-week travel/study program at the University of Oxford

Sponsored by Duke Alumni Association and the UNC General Alumni Association
The Oxford experience is your opportunity to study at the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Founded in the ninth century and known for its academic excellence, extraordinary art and architecture, and numerous cultural offerings, Oxford is one of the world’s foremost centers of thought and enlightenment.

In our two-week program, participants enroll in one of four noncredit enrichment courses led by Oxford tutors. A typical day consists of stimulating classes in the morning and a field trip in the afternoon. Evenings offer time on your own to explore the theatre and music scene, take in lectures and films, or enjoy the pubs of this medieval university town. Each class will have both a full-day and a half-day set aside for class field trips.

There will be a walking tour for those participating in the Oxford Experience for the first time, while past participants will tour the Bodleian Library. In the second week, enjoy a full-day plenary excursion to Cambridge with guided tours of King's College and the Fitzwilliam Museum and the afternoon free to explore as you like.

Plenary lectures will be given in the evenings by each of this year’s four tutors, offering you an opportunity to become familiar with each of the lecturers. Our final gala reception and dinner will be held at Wadham College.

Immerse yourself in the joys and centuries old traditions of learning and community in this historic setting of towers, spires, and gargoyles. Don’t miss the Ashmolean Museum, one of the most magnificent collections of art in England, the Oxford Botanic Garden - the oldest in England - and Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral. You will lodge in the historic heart of Oxford at the Kellogg Residential Centre in Rewley House, with twin-bedded rooms with private bath, dining room, laundry facilities, common room, computer room, bar, lecture and reading rooms. All meals at Rewley House are included.

Duke University and The University of North Carolina have collaborated for over 20 years to bring our alumni and friends together for this educational opportunity. Join us in September for an unforgettable Oxford experience!

“*The Oxford Experience consistently improves on perfection! We look forward to it every year.*”

– Betsy Allen ’06–’09, ’11–15
The First World War is widely regarded as the defining event of the twentieth century that it continues to evoke intense interest, perhaps because so much of the war’s legacy still reverberates around us today. There is the lurking suspicion that, unlike the Second World War, the First World War cannot so readily be justified on ideological or moral grounds, that it may after all have been a futile waste of lives and resources. How does one come to terms with the appalling casualty figures and the horrors of trench warfare? The course will examine the First World War from various perspectives: the first ‘total’ and ‘modern’ conflict, studying the involvement of both male and female civilians on an unprecedented scale, and the rapid advances in modern technology on the fighting front and modern communication to maintain citizens’ morale. Finally, the class will consider a selection of cultural responses to the war. It is through the prism of the art, literature and film that we tend to view the ‘Great War’ today.

TUTOR: Sheila Tremlett has taught courses on European and British History of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries for over thirty years. She specializes in European diplomacy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with a particular focus on Anglo-French relations. Until her semi-retirement in 2014, Sheila was a Lecturer in the Defence Studies Department of King’s College London, based at the Joint Services Staff College of the UK Defence Academy. She is the author of OUDCE’s online course entitled ‘The First World War in Perspective’.

FIELD TRIPS:
Full-Day field trip: National Maritime Museum at Greenwich
Half-Day field trip: Oxfordshire countryside war memorials

REQUIRED READINGS:
1. Lawrence Sondhaus, World War One: the global revolution (2011)

“Once again, Duke, UNC, and Rewley House provided an environment rich with learning opportunities and wonderful, enlightening conversations.”
– Jim Gallaher ’00-'15
There is nothing quite as beautiful as an English country house in summer. And there has never been a summer quite like that Indian summer between the two world wars, a period of gentle decline in which the sun set slowly on the British Empire and the shadows lengthened on the lawns of a thousand stately homes. This course will aim to uncover the truth about a world half-forgotten, draped in myth and hidden behind stiff upper lips. ‘The Long Weekend’ will give a voice to the people who inhabited this world and it will bring the stately homes of England to life, showing how the image of the country house was carefully protected by its occupants above and below stairs, and how the reality was so much more interesting than the dream. We shall also challenge the conventional view of the period when stately homes of England were deserted, their estates broken up, and their parks given over to suburban sprawl. There exists an alternative narrative which saw new families buying, borrowing and sometimes building themselves a country house; which introduced new aesthetics, new social structures, and new meanings to an old tradition. A narrative, in fact, which saw new life in the country house.

TUTOR: Adrian Tinniswood, O.B.E is Visiting Fellow at Bath Spa University. Tinniswood is a native of Derby in the UK. His career has combined work with heritage institutions such as the National Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund with lecturing for English and American universities, including Bristol, Oxford, Nebraska and Cal-Berkeley. He is the author of twelve books on architectural and social history and is well-known as an author, lecturer and broadcaster in Britain and America. Adrian is Chair of the Royal West of England Academy and serves on the boards of a number of museums and heritage bodies.

FIELD TRIPS:
Full-Day field trip: Madresfield Court and Witley Court
Half-Day field trip: Upton House

REQUIRED READINGS:
The Victorian period (1837-1901) witnessed tremendous change and its writers and artists were as much in dialogue with social and political events as politicians and social reformers. While authors like Charles Dickens responded to anxieties of the age with novels that provided commentary on contemporary society, in the second half of the nineteenth century readers were presented with highly imaginative literary reactions ranging from the orthodox to the radical. MacDonald, for example, used seemingly simple fairy tales to counter Darwinian skepticism, while Christina Rossetti used these same models to subvert prescribed gender roles. Wilkie Collins and Oscar Wilde utilized true crime and avant garde aesthetic theory to expose and undermine the respectable middle-class worldview with their dark tales of transgression, addiction, and madness. Having devoured novels such as The Moonstone and Bleak House, Victorian readers became armchair sleuths as they reveled in the exploits of Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes. Study and discuss a range of disparate works and learn about the writers themselves and their views on issues of the day.

**TUTOR:** Dr. Emma Plaskitt is a graduate of McGill University and Merton College, Oxford. Her research interests include Early Women Writers, the Victorian novel - particularly the gothic novel and novel of sensation - and children’s literature. In addition to teaching for a variety of Oxford colleges, including Brasenose, St Catherine’s, Corpus Christi, St Hugh’s, and Somerville, Emma is an Overseas Lecturer for Stanford University. In 2010 she was awarded Stanford’s Annual BOSP Teaching Award for excellence in teaching.

**FIELD TRIPS:**
Full-Day field trip:
Tate Britain and Sherlock Holmes Museum
Half-Day field trip:
Hughenden Manor

**REQUIRED READINGS:**
1. Mary Elizabeth Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret* (1861-3)
5. Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890)
6. Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

“I love the program and the participants it attracts. Most of all, I love my tutor Emma Plaskitt, who brings such richness to every topic.” – Susan Lapinski ’13, ’15
The English Reformations and Their Impact on Society and Belief

The reformations that took place in England during the course of the sixteenth century had a major impact on contemporary and subsequent society, with the reverberations of Henry VIII’s decision to break with the Roman Catholic Church in the mid-1530s continuing to resound today. This course will focus on the ways in which individuals adapted to the changes, some drawn to the evangelical (or ‘Protestant’) ideas pouring in from the continent, others deeply attached to the old religion and its practices. Class discussion will address the ways in which society was profoundly altered, with beliefs about death, the family, charity provision and even the yearly calendar changing according to the times. The course will take a long view of these processes, beginning with the late medieval Catholic church and early forms of English heresy before addressing the changes of the 1530s and the ways in which their consequences played out during the reigns of Edward VI and Mary Tudor. You will then move on to the reign of Elizabeth I and the increasing pressure that was placed on Catholics to conform to a Protestant religious settlement before finishing with what was perhaps the most extreme response to the changes: the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.

TUTOR: Dr. Janet Dickinson specializes in the history of early modern England and Europe, with particular interests in cultural and political history. Her first book, Court Politics and the Earl of Essex was published in 2011. Current projects include work on the Elizabethan nobility and the last years of Elizabeth I’s life as well as court history in general. She has held lectureships at a number of English universities and currently works for New York University in London and the Open University as well as serving as Conferences and Events Secretary for The Society for Court Studies. She teaches a number of programmes for the University of Oxford and in 2014 was named ‘most acclaimed lecturer’ by her students in Oxford, which she found surprising but wonderful.

FIELD TRIPS:
Full-Day field trip: Harvington Hall and Coughton Court
Half-Day field trip: Hailes Abbey

REQUIRED READINGS:
Included Plenary Excursions

Week One: Cambridge

Abounding with exquisite architecture, history, tradition, and renowned for its quirky rituals, Cambridge is a university town with a core of ancient colleges dating back to 1209. It is one of the top five universities in the world, producing countless prime ministers, poets, writers and scientists, and includes the Cavendish Laboratory, King's College Chapel, and the Cambridge University Library. The University's picturesque ‘Backs’ (college gardens) leading on to the Cam river and the leafy green meadows that surround the city give it a tranquil appeal. We will visit King's College, founded in 1441 by Henry VI. King's has an outstanding academic record and is also world-famous for its Chapel and choir; the Christmas Eve service from King's (A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols) is broadcast to millions around the world. We will also have a guided tour of the Fitzwilliam Museum, one of the first public art museums in Britain, built to house the fabulous treasures that the seventh Viscount Fitzwilliam bequeathed to his old university. Following these planned activities, you will have ample time to lunch and explore on your own.

Week Two:
Gala Reception and Final Dinner at Wadham College

The Hall, one of the largest in Oxford, is notable for its great hammer-beam roof and for the Jacobean woodwork of the entrance screen. The portraits include those of the founders and of distinguished members of the college. The large portrait in the gallery is of Lord Lovelace, who delivered Oxford to William of Orange during the Revolution of 1688; the inscription records his role in freeing England ‘from popery and slavery’.

“I came to Oxford not knowing what exactly to expect. I was not disappointed. The seminar was everything I wanted and more. The tutor, engaging and inclusive. The group (my colleagues) congenial and fun to be with.” – Al Ross ’15
ACCOMMODATIONS
You’ll stay in the heart of Oxford at the University’s Residential Center at Rewley House, which is part of Oxford University’s Department of Continuing Education. Accommodations are similar to those in a college. All twin-bedded rooms have private baths, coffee/tea makers, hair dryers, and color televisions, and wi-fi. Rewley House has its own dining room, library classrooms, and common room. Participants have access to a computer room during the two weeks. This is not a hotel, but a college residence, so the amenities one associates with a hotel are not always available and the rooms are small. The location and the spirit of camaraderie among the participants more than make up for any lack of luxuries.

PARTICIPANT PHYSICAL ABILITIES
Please note that this program may be challenging for anyone who has difficulty with walking or mobility. The age and layout of many of the Oxford buildings can make them challenging for those who have trouble walking, and all field trips and excursions involve a certain amount of walking, sometimes on hills, up and down steps, and on uneven ground. Our aim is to treat all participants equally. Prospective participants with mobility difficulties or visual or hearing impairments may want to make preliminary inquires before signing up for the program.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- Accommodation at the Rewley House Residential Centre
- All meals in Oxford during your stay (excluding meals on course field trips)
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- All meals in Oxford during your stay (excluding meals on course field trips)

- All plenary excursions
- Walking tour of Oxford
- All porterage and baggage handling in Oxford

FEES
$5,100 per person, double occupancy.
- Single-room supplement $500
- Superior twin/double $280 per person
- Superior single $895

Price does not include airfare.

FIELD TRIP FEES:
The First World War $148
The Long Weekend: English Country House $139
Scandal and Sensation: 19th C. Novel $157
The English Reformations $135

REQUIRED READINGS
Your tutors will be conducting the classes based on the assumption that all participants will have completed the required readings prior to arriving in Oxford. Please see the required readings on each enrichment course page. Other suggested readings will be provided along with a fuller course description following completion of reservation.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
Participants are responsible for making their own air arrangements for this program. You will also make your way to Oxford from the airports on arrival. Specific instructions regarding bus and train schedules will be included in your Joining Notes. If you are in need of flight assistance please call Cardinal Travel at 1-866-213-8743. Transportation from Oxford to Heathrow Airport for your return flight will be available on the last day of the program. Please note: The bus going to Heathrow will be for flights departing no earlier than 10:00 a.m. on Sept. 17, 2016. Participants will be responsible for transportation to the airports for flights departing earlier than these times.

APPLICATION/CANCELLATION/REFUNDS
A $500 deposit is required upon application. The balance of the fee is due May 2, 2016. Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Refunds will be made according to the following per person cancellation penalties: Up to 120 days before departure: $150; 119-90 days before departure: 50% of the total program price; 89-60 days prior to departure: 75% of the total program price; 59 days or less before departure: 100% of the total program price. In the event of cancellation of the program by Duke/UNC, a full refund will be given. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation/baggage/medical insurance.

DISCLAIMER
Duke University and The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association have no responsibility in whole or in part for any delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical, defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or other services. Baggage is at the owner’s risk entirely. The right is retained to decline to accept or retain any person as a trip member should such person’s health, mental condition, physical infirmity, or attitude jeopardize the operation of the trip or the rights, welfare, or enjoyment of other participants. We reserve the right to revise the program itinerary as needed.

MORE INFORMATION
Please contact Duke Alumni Association at (919) 684-5114 or travel@daa.duke.edu or UNC General Alumni Association at (877) 962-3980 or alumni_travel@unc.edu.
Two-week session: September 4 - 17, 2016

Please reserve _____ space(s) for the 2-week session.
Enclosed is my deposit of ________ ($500 per person).

☐ Accept my check made payable to UNC General Alumni Association
☐ Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AMEX Exp. Date ____________

Credit Card Number

Signature as it appears on card

Please print the following:

Name #1 as it appears on passport Class Year Date of Birth

Name #2 as it appears on passport Class Year Date of Birth

Name #1 as it should appear on nametag

Name #2 as it should appear on nametag

Address

City __________________________ State _____ Zip

Phone (H) ______________________

Phone (W) ______________________

Email __________________________

Reservation Form

☐ Twin-room  ☐ Single-room

☐ I would like a roommate. If one is not available, I will pay the single supplement of $500.

☐ I am interested in a Superior Room accommodation upgrade upgrade ($280/person supplement in a double; $895 in a single)

Course choices for the two-week program:

Name of Participant #1 __________________________

1st Choice __________________________

2nd Choice __________________________

Name of Participant #2 __________________________

1st Choice __________________________

2nd Choice __________________________

To complete your reservation, please call or print this form and:

Mail to The Oxford Experience, UNC General Alumni Association, PO Box 660, Chapel Hill, NC  27514-0660

Or fax to 919-843-4144 [attention: Ann-Louise Aguiar ’76]

Or call 919-962-3574