

THE OXFORD EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER 2 - 16, 2023



Duke ALUMNI



UNC GENERAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



THE OXFORD EXPERIENCE

The Oxford Experience is your opportunity to study at the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Founded in the 9th 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 courses led by Oxford tutors. A typical day includes challenging classes in the morning followed by a field trip in the afternoon. This year there is a full-day plenary excursion to Salisbury and Stonehenge in addition to opportunities for visits at other historic sites and landmarks as well.

Open lectures offered by each tutor give you an opportunity to partake in the other course offerings, concluding with a final gala reception and dinner held at Exeter College. Evenings offer time on your own to explore the theatre and music scene, take in lectures or films, or to enjoy the pubs of this medieval university town. Your two weekends at the middle and end of the course provide free time to explore the city and countryside at your leisure.

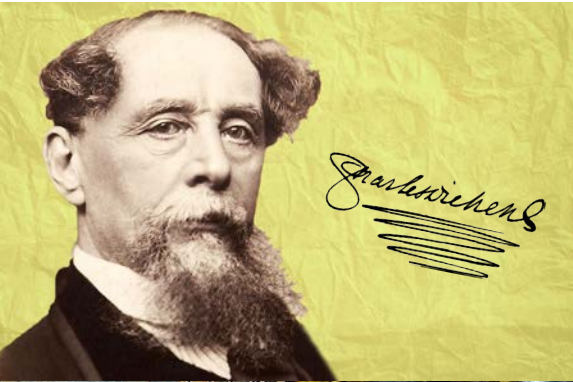
Immerse yourself in the history and traditions of this storied learning center and truly unique educational opportunity. Imagine walking to class looking up at the soaring spires or visiting the world's oldest university museum, the Ashmolean. Your course may include books published by Oxford University Press, the world's second oldest and largest university press. Spend time touring the Bodleian Library and its Tower of the Five Orders. An evening spent listening to Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral is sure to be fondly recalled and recounted many times.

While attending the Oxford Experience, participants stay in Rewley House, located in the historic center of Oxford. Accommodations include twin-bedded rooms with private bath, a dining room, common room, computer room, bar, lecture, reading rooms, and access to a coin-operated laundry unit. Meals are included.

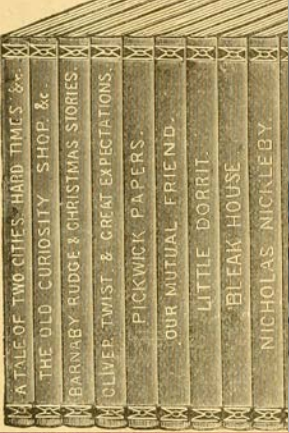
Duke University and The University of North Carolina celebrate over 25 years of collaboration to bring our alumni and friends together for this educational opportunity. Join us in September for an unforgettable Oxford Experience!

"The fact that so many people return year after year is a testament to how much we value the experience."

- Joe Ritok '15 - '19, '22



CHARLES DICKENS: CRIME AND RIOT



Charles Dickens is the pre-eminent popular writer of the nineteenth century, arguably second only to Shakespeare in the literary canon for his creation of memorable characters. In this course, we will survey three novels from different periods of his career and explore how his personal life shaped his writing including his father's imprisonment, his formative childhood experience working in a factory, and other significant life events. We will start with *Oliver Twist* (1837–9), which is the first time Dickens tries to put together a continuous narrative which he publishes by installments. This provides a fascinating opportunity to look over Dickens's shoulder and see how he composed his works. Then we'll look at one of his most famous mature novels, *Bleak House* (1852–3), a masterpiece of Dickensian artistry. *Bleak House* is one of the first detective mysteries, with a murder, a detective, and the revelation of the criminal at the end. It allows Dickens to show the connections between the criminal underworld and the high society of the Nineteenth Century. Finally, as an example of Dickens's late work, we'll look at *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), his novel of the French Revolution, in which Dickens explores his fears of and attraction to social and political revolution, a force that was continually threatening to break out and alter Victorian society. The course is an opportunity to not only dig into the works written by one of the most notable English authors in history, but also examine his works in the context of the world he lived.

TUTOR

Dr. Angus McFadzean is a lecturer specializing in British and American literature and film. He is the Program Director of the Oxford University Summer School for Adults and teaches on international programs for the Continuing Education Department. He holds a doctorate from Wadham College, Oxford on James Joyce and the Aesthetics of Transgression. He has published on James Joyce, Thomas Pynchon and Hollywood cinema and has taught widely on literature of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, specifically modernism and the works of Joseph Conrad, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce and WB Yeats.

FIELD TRIPS

Full-Day field trip

Charles Dickens Birthplace Museum and HMS Victory, The National Museum of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth

Half-Day field trip

National Archive, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* (Oxford World Classics)
2. Charles Dickens, *Bleak House* (Oxford World Classics)
3. Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (Oxford World Classics)

"This program offers the ability to expand our knowledge of subjects of interest to each one of us."

- Charlette McQuilkin '17-'19, '22

KING ARTHUR IN FACT AND FICTION

“Lack of knowledge of the historic Arthur has proved a happy chance for successive inventors of the literary man”. Indeed, just enough evidence exists of the legendary leader to tantalise but not hamper the creative efforts of novelists, poets, playwrights, artists, and film makers. For most, King Arthur conjures images of a Christ-like figure, the “once and future king” who, presides over the chivalrous knights of the round table at the glittering court at Camelot, advised by the wily mage, Merlin. Yet he is doomed to fail, brought down by the tragic affair of his wife and leading knight, and by the machinations of his half-sister and own son. This mythic figure is a far cry from the possibly real man behind the legend. Historical Arthur, if he existed, was most likely a fifth or sixth-century British war lord, involved in, or leading, battles against the invading Anglo-Saxons. In this course we will examine the historical and archeological evidence of the mythic king’s existence, and then explore a selection of literary depictions of Arthur and his court, from their earliest appearance in Celtic stories, through medieval and Victorian representations to their modern portrayals in novels, film, and television. Why do these tales continue to fascinate? How have successive generations adapted Arthur to fit different agendas? Would proof that he existed add or detract from the myth? These are some of the questions we will consider as we immerse ourselves in the world of chivalry, adventure, and romance.

TUTOR

Emma Plaskitt is a graduate of McGill University, Montréal, and Merton College, Oxford. She has taught English literature 1640–1901 for many Oxford colleges and has also taught for a variety of American study abroad programmes. She currently focuses on teaching for SCIO, Wycliffe Hall’s visiting student programme and for Stanford University, for whom she is an Overseas Lecturer. Though a specialist in the literature of the Restoration and 18th Century, her research interests include the Victorian novel, particularly the gothic novel and novel of sensation, as well as fantasy fiction and children’s literature.

FIELD TRIPS

Full-Day field trip

Tate Britain Art Gallery, London

Half-Day field trip

Broadway Tower and Park,
the Cotswolds

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Idylls of the King*
2. Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “*The Lady of Shalott*” (1842 version; short poem)
3. J.R.R. Tolkien, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (1975)
4. Roger Lancelyn Green, *King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table*
5. Rosemary Sutcliffe, *The King Arthur Trilogy*



PEOPLE AND POWER: THE CASTLE IN MEDIEVAL IN ENGLAND & WALES



Castles were the great power houses of the Middle Ages. They were the centres of conquest and oppression, the seats of government, and the luxurious homes of the ruling classes. In this course we'll look at the castles of medieval England and Wales, from their arrival with the Normans in the eleventh century to their evolution into country houses in the sixteenth century. We'll explore their architectural development and the balance between fortification and domesticity. We'll also think about how to attack and capture a castle and how to defend one, and learn about the peaceful domestic lives of the owners and their servants. We'll think about the organisation of households and learn how to be a model servant according to contemporary training manuals, and we'll also give some thought to the education of children within these establishments. We'll learn about the complex codes of chivalry in the male-dominated world of the medieval household, about the knight and the lady, and also explore the reality of women's role in this society. Our sources include the standing remains of these once-proud buildings and the written evidence of poets, chroniclers and clerks, as well as delicate imagery taken from medieval illuminated manuscripts. Together, they form an exciting picture of power in the Middle Ages.

TUTOR

*Dr. Gillian White specialises in the history and visual arts of late medieval and early modern England. She previously worked for The National Trust as Curator/ Collections Manager at Hardwick Hall, about which she then wrote her PhD. She has contributed sections on palaces and houses to the new critical edition of John Nichols' *The Progresses and Public Processions of Queen Elizabeth I*, published by OUP in 2015. She taught for many years in the Centre for the Study of the Country House at Leicester University and has been a member of the OUDCE tutor panel for more than a decade, teaching on the History of Art. She also undertakes freelance teaching and lecturing and has contributed to the Victoria & Albert Museum's course on the History of Textiles.*

FIELD TRIPS

Full-Day field trip

Goodrich Castle, Herefordshire and
Raglan Castle, Monmouthshire

Half-Day field trip

Grey's Court, Oxfordshire

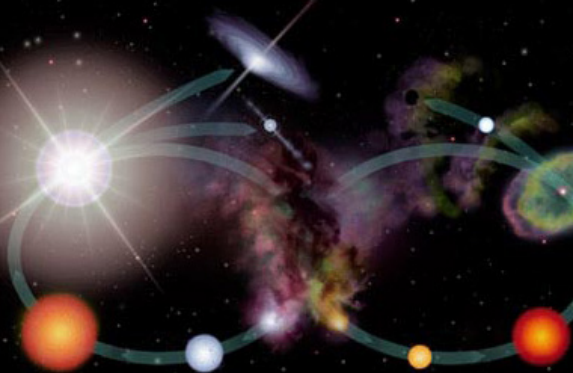
REQUIRED READINGS

1. Gies, Joseph and Frances, *Life in a Medieval Castle* (2015)
2. Gillingham, John and Ralph A. Griffiths, *Medieval Britain: A Very Short Introduction* (2000)
3. Goodall, John, *The Castle: A History* (2022)
4. Morris, Marc, *Castles: Their History and Evolution in Medieval Britain* (2017)

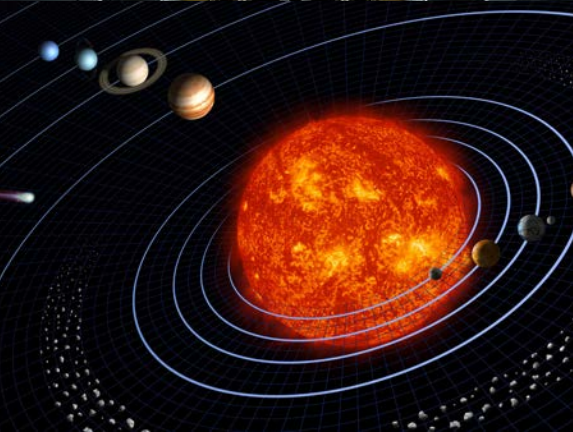
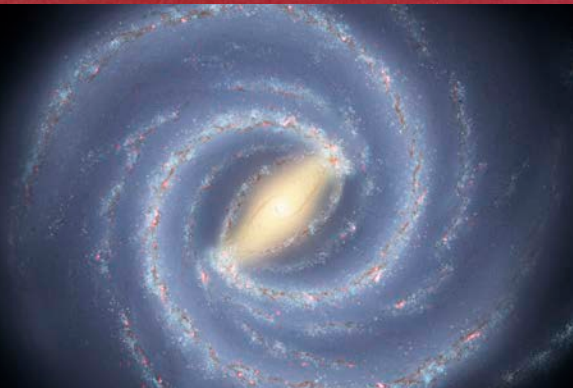
"Exceeded expectations."

- Monte Gaillard '22

UNDERSTANDING THE COSMOS



$$E = mc^2 = \sqrt{m_0^2 c^4 + p^2 c^2}$$



An introduction to all-things cosmological, from the life and death of stars to the Theory of Relativity and quantum mechanics – this course is a great way to engage with the most astounding discoveries ever made by humankind and to examine some of the most challenging questions facing science today. Is the cosmos finite or infinite? Do we inhabit the only universe? Did it all begin with a big bang, 14 billion years ago? With the aid of images and imagination we will examine the history and architecture of space and, in simple terms, the scientific methods and theories that shape our current understanding. And with the almost daily findings of the James Webb space telescope to absorb, could there be a better time in which to acquaint oneself with ‘the final frontier’?

TUTOR

Dr. Tim Barrett lectures in political history and the history of science and has been a tutor for the Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education for fifteen years. He is also an Honorary Research Fellow at Keele University, Staffordshire.

FIELD TRIPS

Full-Day field trip
Greenwich Observatory and adjacent Royal Museums

Half-Day field trip
Science Museum, London

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Ferreira, P. *The State of the Universe: Weidenfeld and Nicolson*, 2006
2. Greene, B. *The Fabric of the Cosmos: Penguin Book*, 2007 (reprinted)

“I appreciated the people, the course,
the trips, Oxford, all of it.”

- Ruthanne Stabler '17- '19, '21- '22



PLENARY EXCURSION

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: Celebrating over 750 years since its consecration, the iconic Salisbury Cathedral is a prime example of Early English Gothic architecture. Salisbury Cathedral, formally known as the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, boasts the largest cathedral close and cloister in Britain, as well as the tallest spire, built in 1320, which dominates the skyline at 404 feet (123 m). The cathedral served as a great source of inspiration for artists, in particular for artist John Constable whose well-known paintings include Salisbury Cathedral from Bishop's Ground (c. 1825) and Salisbury Cathedral from Meadows (1831) which he considered his best work. The cathedral is also home to various forms of art and history. While visiting you will see the largest working font (also known as a water basin) in any British cathedral designed by renowned water sculptor William Pye, the Salisbury Cathedral clock which dates from about 1386 AD and is supposedly the oldest working modern clock in the world, and one of the four surviving original copies of the Magna Carta.

STONEHENGE: Step back in time as you visit the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world and its remarkable ancient landscape. Stonehenge is considered one of the most notable landmarks in the United Kingdom and a British Cultural icon. There have perhaps been more theories about its origin and purpose than any other prehistoric monument. Archeologists believe that Stonehenge was constructed from around 3000 BC to 2000 BC. The now reunion monument that sits on Salisbury Plain was constructed within earthworks in the middle of the densest complex of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments in England, including several hundred tumuli (burial mounds). A legally protected monument since 1882 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986, Stonehenge continues to build our understanding of how prehistoric society was organized and serve as a place of reverence for many visitors it draws every year.

GALA RECEPTION AND DINNER

EXETER COLLEGE, OXFORD, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Exeter College is the fourth oldest college of the University. Founded in 1314 by Devon-born Walter de Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter. Located in the heart of Oxford, adjoining the Bodleian Library. The college has occupied its current site on Turl Street since 1315, one year after it was founded. Enjoy a sumptuous dinner in the hallowed halls of this historic college dining hall as we celebrate the conclusion of another terrific year in Oxford.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Tuition for selected course of study
- Accommodations for 14 nights at the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education residential center
- All meals from Sept. 3 - Sept. 15, 2023
- Bus transfer to Heathrow Airport and breakfast on Sept. 16, 2023
- Welcome reception and dinner
- Gala reception and dinner at Exeter College
- Guided walking tour of Oxford
- Group excursion in England
- Common room coffee/tea breaks
- Professional group photograph

FEES

TUITION

\$6,200 per person, Double occupancy
\$550 Single-room supplement

Additional Accommodation Request

\$280 per person, Superior twin/double
\$895, Superior single

Price does not include airfare.

FIELD TRIP FEES

\$250 per person.

APPLICATION/CANCELLATION/REFUNDS

A \$500 deposit is required once your course and accommodations are confirmed. The balance of the fee is due May 5, 2023. Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. **Refunds will be made in accordance with the following per person cancellation penalties based on the number of days before departure.** Up to 120 days: \$150 administrative fee; 119-90 days: 50% of the total program price; 89-60 days: 75% of the total program price; 59 days or less: 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 and medical insurance. Information about trip insurance is included with your confirmation packet or may be viewed at <https://alumni.unc.edu/things-to-do/tar-heel-travel/travel-insurance/>.





TERMS AND CONDITIONS

REQUIRED READINGS

Your tutors will be conducting 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. Additional suggested readings may be provided along with a fuller course description [following completion of reservation](#).

ACCOMMODATIONS

You will 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 modest, being similar to those in a college. All twin-bedded rooms have private baths, coffee/tea makers, hair dryers, color televisions, and wi-fi. This is not a hotel, but a college residence, so the amenities one tends to associate with a hotel are not always available and the rooms are small and spare compared to American standards. *Please note that rooms on higher floors (there are four stories in some buildings) are*

accessible by stairs only. The location and the spirit of camaraderie among the participants more than make up for any lack of luxuries. Rewley House has its own dining room, library classrooms, common room, and laundry facility. Participants have access to a computer room during the program.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

Participants are responsible for arranging their own airfare to and from Oxford, as well as ground travel from airport to Oxford upon arrival. Specific instructions regarding bus and train schedules will be included in your Joining Notes mailed to you in August. Transportation from Oxford to Heathrow Airport for your return flight will be available for flights departing after 10:00 AM on September 16, 2023. **Please note:** *Participants leaving earlier than 10:00 AM on the final day of the program are responsible for their own transportation to the airport.*

PARTICIPANT PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Please note that this program will be challenging for anyone who has difficulty with walking or other mobility issues. Field trips and excursions often require up to one mile or more of walking including uphill terrain, stairways, and uneven ground. The age and layout of many buildings at Oxford can make them arduous to traverse as well. Our aim is to treat all participants equally and to keep our touring group together and safe while enjoying the program. Prospective participants with mobility difficulties, visual or hearing impairments, or other health concerns should make preliminary inquiries before signing up for this program.

MORE INFORMATION

Duke Alumni

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UNC General Alumni Association

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