



THE OXFORD EXPERIENCE

AUG. 31-SEPT. 14, 2024

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 Westminster Abbey and British Library 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 Trinity 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 we spend some months reading and preparing for the classes makes it only better, not only in class but also the anticipation. I am also thrilled that my son enjoys it as much as I do. There are not many things in an academic setting that generations can enjoy together."

- Peggy Helms '16-'19, '21-'23

ROMAN BRITAIN

The influence of the Romans on modern British society is enormous and unique. This course will concentrate on the fascinating events and the extraordinary cultural and artistic achievements of the Romans in Britain across a range of topics including: Caesar's expeditions; the Claudian invasion; Boudica's revolt; Tacitus' Agricola; Hadrian's Wall; the army; towns and villas. Numerous intriguing human issues will be confronted on the way as we follow the process of the creation of a province, explore the challenges faced by both the Romans and the natives, examine the physical and mental environment in which they spent significant parts of their lives, and assess their mistakes and evaluate the solutions they tried. To supplement our studies we will make a field trip to the Roman Palace at Fishbourne and the fort at Portchester, plus an excursion to Chedworth Roman villa. The course will develop skills of observation and analysis with further applications in study, work and leisure, and provide an interesting, enjoyable and relevant learning experience.

TUTOR

Dr Steve Kershaw is a tutor for the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education and the Victoria and Albert Museum, author of Oxford University's on-line course on The Fall of Rome, and spent 25 years as a guest speaker for Swan Hellenic Cruises, with whom he travelled widely throughout what was the Roman Empire. He also leads the Classical Option of the European Studies programme for Rhodes College and the University of the South. He is the editor of The Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology (1991) and the author of A Brief Guide to the Greek Myths (2007), A Brief Guide to Classical Civilization (2010), A Brief History of the Roman Empire (2013) and A Brief History of Atlantis: Plato's Ideal State (2017). He has recently appeared as an Expert Contributor on the History channel's Barbarians Rising series. Steve's other interests range from cricket to contemporary jazz.

"My expectations were exceeded. I'm a first timer and it was better than I expected."

- Bob Booth '23

FIELD TRIPS

FULL DAY: Fishbourne and Portchester

HALF DAY: Chedworth Roman Villa

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Caesar, *The Conquest of Gaul*, Penguin translation
2. De la Bédoyère, G., *Roman Britain: A New History*, Thames & Hudson
3. Frere, S.S., *Britannia*, Routledge
4. Kershaw, S.P., *A Brief History of the Roman Empire*, Constable & Robinson
5. Tacitus, *Annals of Imperial Rome*, Penguin translation
6. Tacitus, *The Agricola and the Germania*, Penguin translation
7. *The Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain* (4th ed.)
8. Salway, P., *Roman Britain*, Oxford University Press.

ROMANTIC MODERNS: THE ARTS AND THE IMAGINATION IN BRITAIN 1927-51

In the middle years of the C20th some English writers and artists pursued the spirit of an England they felt challenged by Modernism and modern life, and eventually threatened by war. This perspective has been described as neo-Romantic in some ways, concerned with the local and the particular, and valued the best of tradition.

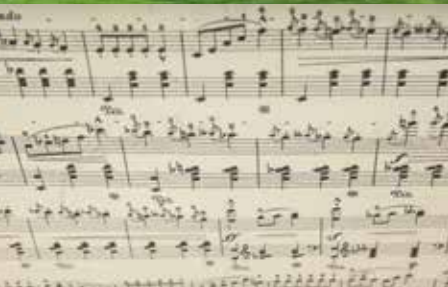
The success of H V Morton's *In Search of England* (1927), soon followed by J B Priestley's *An English Journey*, indicated that people wanted to connect with English culture and places. It can be felt in the writings of authors such as Virginia Woolf, Evelyn Waugh, Elizabeth Bowen, T.S. Eliot, John Betjeman, and Stephen Spender; in the art of John Piper, Paul Nash, and Eric Ravilious; and in films such as *Brief Encounter* and *A Canterbury Tale*. Most were in search of an imagined England and an authentic English aesthetic. There are some interesting Oxford connections.

Vaughan Williams is a central figure in this era. His film music provided soundtracks for *The England of Elizabeth*, *The People's Land*, and *Scott of the Antarctic*, and his Fifth and Sixth symphonies expressed different aspects of the war experience and its aftermath. His creative response to writers such as Thomas Hardy, William Blake, and John Bunyan, and to the English landscape, and sites such as Stonehenge, place him in a visionary Romantic tradition.

The period culminated in the post-war celebration of the famous Festival of Britain in 1951. Out of this quest came some enduring pictures, stories, poetry and music – which we will experience on this English journey.

TUTOR

Rikky Rooksby has a PhD in English literature and tutors for OUDCE. He is a guitar teacher and composer, and the author of many articles, reviews and books on English literature and popular music. He is a member of the Vaughan Williams Society, and contributed 20 entries to the New Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. He is a member of the Society of Authors, the Ralph Vaughan Williams Society, the UK Sibelius One Society, The Friends of the English Music Festival, The Friends of Cathedral Music, The Friends of Penlee House (Penzance), and the John F. Kennedy Library (Boston).



FIELD TRIPS (TBD)

Full-Day field trip

Down Ampney village and Salisbury Cathedral (Vaughan Williams)

Half-Day field trip

Cookham and Stanley Spencer Gallery

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Virginia Woolf, *Between the Acts*
2. T. S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*
3. Simon Heffer, *Vaughan Williams*



WINSTON CHURCHILL: STATESMAN, PROPHET AND CHRONICLER

The aim of the two weeks is to develop a modern view of Winston Churchill, drawing on new historical writing. Its basis is a chronological framework covering the period of his political life from his entry to Parliament in 1900 to his retirement in 1955. His early successes will be assessed, as well as his failure to keep in step with the modern world after the First World War. Two particular themes bearing particularly on his reputation today are singled out – his imperialism and his status as a prophet warning of totalitarianism.

The second week starts with an examination of his role as a heroic wartime leader, and then - a neglected topic - his final premiership attempting to breathing life back into the Liberal ideal. Modern studies of Churchill often now include discussions of him as a symbolic figure, represented for example in films, literature and in effigy, as well as political discourse. The course will deal with this, with a chance to consider how he has been treated particularly in film. Students will have the opportunity to develop their own presentations on aspects of Churchill's life which interest them. On the final day, findings of the two weeks will be drawn together in a general discussion.

Over the two weeks, consideration will be given to Winston Churchill in the different guises in which he appears in modern historical study, as statesman, prophet and chronicler.

TUTOR

Michael Redley's doctoral work at Cambridge University was in the colonial history of Africa. He also has a Master's Degree in Economics from the London School of Economics. He has researched and published articles on British and imperial history, blending history, economics, politics and literature. He has taught on topics in modern British and imperial history for Week Class and Summer School programmes through OUDCE and for degree.



FIELD TRIPS

FULL DAY: Chartwell, National Trust House, Kent

HALF DAY: Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Addison, P., *Churchill: The Unexpected Hero*, Oxford University Press 2005
2. Churchill, W.S., *My Early Life*, Scribner 1996
3. Clarke, P., *Hope and Glory: Britain 1900-2000*, Penguin 2004

OPTIONAL READING LIST

1. Clarke, P., *Mr Churchill's Profession: Statesman, Orator, Writer*, Bloomsbury 2012
2. Purnell, S., *The Life and Wars of Clementine Churchill*, Aurum 2015
3. Reynolds, D., *In Command of History: Churchill Fighting and Writing the Second World War*, Penguin 2005
4. Roberts, A., *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*, Allen Lane 2018
5. Toye, R., *Churchill's Empire: The World that made him and the world he made*, Macmillan 2011

MURDER MOST BRITISH: CRIME AND DETECTION IN VICTORIAN FICTION



Collins, and Braddon, and true accounts by the constabulary and condemned criminals. What was the relationship between authors and the police force and how were real crimes, including murder, utilised in bestselling novels like *The Woman in White*, *The Moonstone*, and *Lady Audley's Secret*? How did the Victorian middle classes view the police and what was their response to crime and criminality? Above all, why were they so fascinated by crime and detective fiction, particularly those stories dealing with murder, and why do we continue to be so?

TUTOR

Dr Emma Plaskitt is a graduate of Merton College, Oxford, where she wrote her doctoral thesis on eighteenth-century fiction. She has taught English literature 1640–1901 for various Oxford colleges as well as OUDCE programmes The Oxford Experience, MSSU, Berkeley, MSU, and Duke/UNC. Having worked for the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, where she was responsible for writing many articles on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women writers, she now focuses on teaching for the SCIO Study Abroad Programme based at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford and for Stanford University, for whom she is an Overseas Lecturer. Though a specialist in the literature of the long eighteenth century, her research interests include the Victorian novel — particularly the gothic novel and novel of sensation.

“I especially enjoy the sense of community we experience there. We are all interested in learning inside and outside the classes. There is a camaraderie that is hard to explain to anyone who has never been.”

—Nancy Jackson '16, '18, '22, '23

READING LIST CONTINUED

7. Mary Elizabeth Braddon, *Lady Audley's Secret*
8. Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Sign of Four*
9. Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Speckled Band* (1892)
10. Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Scandal in Bohemia* (1891)

OPTIONAL READING LIST

1. Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone*
2. (1868); Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*
3. (1837); Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*



PLENARY EXCURSION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - WESTMINSTER ABBEY AND BRITISH LIBRARY

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: Hosting every coronation since 1066 and 16 royal weddings, Westminster Abbey church is one of the most popular London attractions for good reason. Consecrated in 1065, the historic building was originally known as the West Minster under King Edward and later rebuilt by King Henry III in its infamous Gothic style of architecture that can be seen today. In addition to its renowned architecture and rich history, the UNESCO World Heritage site is home to the burial of thirty royals including Mary, Queen of Scots and its builders King Edward and King Henry III. As you walk into the center of Westminster Abbey you will notice the Coronation Chair, built in 1296 by King Edward I and used in thirty-nine coronation ceremonies, in front of the High Alter. Keep walking and you will see The Queen’s Window built by renowned influential British artist, David Hockney, located in the north transept. The 8.5 meters high by 3.5 meters wide piece was installed in 2018 to celebrate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and reflects her love for the countryside. To this day, Westminster Abbey continues to hold regular worship services and conducts British coronations and Royal weddings.

BRITISH LIBRARY: The British Library is one of the largest libraries in the world hosting an extraordinary 150 million items in its collections and boasting a rapid growth rate of three million items each year. Items include Beethoven’s tuning fork, Jane Austen’s writing desk and an Egyptian stela written in hieroglyphics over 3,000 years ago. 1.6 million visitors travel to the British Library each year to utilize the facility’s reading rooms, explore manuscripts on exhibition such as Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway, and to see work collected in the King’s Library tower by King George III himself. Renowned for its unique look, the national library of Great Britain was built by a former naval lieutenant and is said to look like a ship if seen from a certain angle. Not convinced? Visit the Upper Ground Floor to examine the 3D model of the building yourself.

OPTIONAL PLENARY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 – ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY PERFORMANCE

Stratford-upon-Avon: After lunch at Rewley House, we’ll visit Stratford, known as the birthplace of William Shakespeare, for dinner and a performance by the renowned, Royal Shakespeare Company. The theatre, which was originally built in 1879 and known as the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, was rebuilt and renamed through a sponsorship by Peter Hall who founded the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1961. The performance will be identified in early 2024.

GALA RECEPTION AND DINNER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 – TRINITY COLLEGE

Trinity College was founded as a training house for Catholic priests in 1555 by Sir Thomas Pope, a councilor to Queen Mary Tudor and devout Catholic himself. Built on what was originally known as Durham College, the college consists of a formal garden built in 1713, a modest chapel designed in Baroque style, and one of the most visible Oxford college entrances on Broad Street. 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 Aug. 31 - Sept. 14, 2024
- Bus transfer to Heathrow Airport and breakfast on Sept. 14, 2024
- Welcome reception and dinner
- Gala reception and dinner at Trinity 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 3, 2024. 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 14, 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.

Duke and or UNC's Alumni Office reserves the right to decline to accept or dismiss any person from the program should such person's physical or mental condition, action or attitude impede the operation of the program or the rights, welfare or enjoyment of other participants.

MORE INFORMATION

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