

Summer Institute 2019



2019 Summer Institute at Oriel College Oxford

--- William Shakespeare and English Literature

I. Introduction & Background

Oriel College

Oriel College is the fifth oldest of the University of Oxford's constituent colleges, founded in 1326. Situated in the heart of Oxford, Oriel is home to around 300 undergraduate and 200 postgraduate delegates, as well as around 100 members of academic staff. The majority of Oriel's buildings date from the 17th century onwards and include the Chapel, Pantin Library, Senior Library, and Hall. The College prides itself on being a welcoming academic community, home to world-class teaching, learning and research.

Summer Institute at Oriel College Oxford

Summer Institute at Oriel College Oxford (OSI) is an exclusive study abroad programme offered by Oriel College (University of Oxford, UK). It offers courses on a wide range of subjects like International Law, International Economics, PPE, English Literature and Learning Skills. OSI works with an outstanding faculty that is comprised of current professors, lecturers, researchers and tutors from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge.

II. William Shakespeare and English Literature Programme Introduction

This exclusive International Law programme is part of the Summer Institute of Oriel College Oxford. From William Shakespeare to Jane Austen, this programme is designed to provide exciting and varied courses about the UK's most celebrated authors. Each course explores the history of various authors along with close textual analysis of authorial style. Moreover, delegates will be able to bring famous texts to life through interactive discussion and engagement in classes. Each week, Delegates will participate in one course with an examination at the end of the week. Cultural activities will be offered as well so that delegates can have the closest experience of Oxford life within a short time.

Programme Dates:

Session 1: 7 July to 3 August 2019

Session 2: 21 July to 17 August 2019

Session 3: 4 August to 31 August 2019

Course Options:

** All course topics are subject to availability of the faculty and Oriel College would be happy to offer other course topics upon the request from Partnerships Universities.*

1. An Actor's Approach to Shakespeare

This course of lectures will introduce delegates to a range of Shakespeare's plays and poems from the point of view of actors and directors approaching this material in preparation for performance. In this respect it will differ from more conventional academic and contextual approaches. The focus will range from production history (taking in the diaries, memoirs and accounts of notable performers during the last 400 years) to dramatic technique and dramaturgy. Delegates will learn about how styles of performance have changed – from the highly prescribed and mannered style of the early modern period to the more cinematic renderings of the modern day. They will also discover how the plays have been recontextualised in line with social and historical change – such as when Janet Suzman directed a colour-blind production of 'Othello' in South Africa at the height of Apartheid. They will develop a 'toolbox' of dramatic techniques which can be applied to the texts in order to draw out many of their more subtle nuances. Finally, they will consider the future for Shakespeare's plays and how modern styles, conventions and convictions continue to alter and affect the ways in which they are performed.

2. Shakespeare-Man of the Theatre, An introduction

This course aims to reflect one of the main strengths of the University of Oxford's

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Faculty of English: its historical breadth. Informed by a comprehension of the importance of context, the lectures will offer delegates a strong foundation for understanding the various facets of Shakespeare's works, tempering historical and ideological depth with attention to textual detail. Prose, poetry, and drama will be considered in dynamic ways, inflected by engagement with various political, socio-economic, religious, philosophical, and cultural ideas.

3. Oxford as a Literary Ground

This course of lectures will introduce students to fantasy literature composed in Oxford. We will investigate famous works by various great authors, including Lewis Carroll, J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Philip Pullman. Students will be introduced to the historical and cultural significance of these texts, their literary themes, and the sources these authors used for inspiration – particularly from medieval and biblical literatures. We will also explore their effects on later cultural expressions, such as J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series and the fantasy genre in film and television. Numerous relevant landmarks around the city will be discussed, with suggestions for field trips to various locations, and students will be encouraged to experience their own Oxford fantasy.

4. Queens of English Literature

'Queens of English Literature' will give students an overview of the major works of Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters. Students will learn to:

- Perform close textual analysis of the literary style of each of these authors;
- Situate these texts in their historical, cultural, and literary contexts;
- Explore the critical reception and afterlives of these works;
- Conduct independent research on the connections between these texts.

This course will focus on five of Austen's six novels – *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Persuasion*, and *Northanger Abbey* – as well as touching on *Mansfield Park* and her early novella, *Lady Susan*. It will also explore the major works of the Brontës – Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, and Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* – and will introduce students to Charlotte Brontë's lesser-known novels and Emily Brontë's poetry. Each session will comprise a 90-minute interactive lecture, which will incorporate short small-group exercises where students discuss the questions raised by the lecture.

5. Here be Dragons: English Literature of the Middle Ages

This course will introduce students to the literature of the Middle Ages written, spoken and read in the British Isles and across Northern Europe, from the earliest Anglo-Saxon poetry to the Romances of the later period. We will explore the

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challenges associated with dating some of this material and examine the various ways in which the literary culture presents a commentary on changing social and political contexts. Students will encounter a range of literary genres – some almost unknown to later civilizations – including finely-wrought alliterative verses, sagas, hagiographies and dream visionary writing. Studied authors will include Chaucer, Langland, Malory, Gower and that most prolific medieval author 'Anon'. Although the set texts are all in English (including Old and Middle English – largely examined in idiomatic modern translations) we will also discuss the impact of Latin, Scandinavian and other European traditions on writers in this period.

III. Faculty

Dr Brian McMahon, Somerville College, University of Oxford (UK)

Dr David Maskell, Emeritus Fellow of Oriel College, University of Oxford (UK)

Dr Emma Whipday, Brasenose College, University of Oxford (UK)

Timothy Bourns, St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford (UK)

IV. Additional Course Features

1. Excursion: During delegates' time off, there are planned trips to top attractions and landmarks around the United Kingdom. Locations delegates can choose from include Bath, Cotswolds and London.

2. Cultural Activities in Oxford: Throughout the programme, delegates will have the opportunity to get to know the city of Oxford through a variety of activities

- Welcome Reception
- The Ashmolean Museum
- Oxford Castle Tour
- Oxford Walking Tour
- Oriel College Tours
- Traditional Punting
- Oxford University Botanic Garden
- River Cruise
- Croquet Tournament
- Film Nights
- Pub Tour
- Evening talks
- Formal Hall and Farewell Dinner
- ...

V. Certificate, Academic Transcript, and Accreditation

Each week, one course will be taught. Combining lecture time, preparation, study time, and tests, each week is designed to be equivalent to 2 - 3 ECTS credits or 1 - 1.5 US credits. Delegates are invited to participate in one examination each course.

Summer Institute at Oriel College Oxford is a certificate programme that may be accountable for optional credits depending on the requirements of the home institution/school/university.

A certificate of attendance will be issued by Oriel College. An Academic Transcript will also be issued by Oriel College and will show the courses attended by each delegate. It will indicate the workload of each course as well the results of exams and assignments.