



English Literature University of Oxford 2010 Program Information

About the program

The program consists of:

- A daily lecture program given by leading scholars and distinguished speakers
- Study in small seminar groups
 - Applicants choose two courses from: Middle English Literature; Shakespeare (2 options); Romantic Poetry; Jane Austen; Victorian Fiction; Modernist Writing; Contemporary British Fiction.
 - Undergraduate students take a mandatory critical analysis course and may choose either Shakespeare or Jane Austen as their second seminar topic.
 - Each course has two two-hour meetings per week and classes usually contain no more than 12 participants.

Contact Hours

The program provides a minimum of 46.5 contact hours including:

- 22.5h of lectures (15 lectures of 1.5h each)
- 24h of seminar meetings

Who is it for?

The program is for graduate students, teachers in high schools and colleges, professionals with an interest in study at university level, senior undergraduates with at least 2 years' study at university level in a related academic discipline.

Level of the program

This is an intensive program taught at Master's level to an informed international audience. Non-native speakers of English are required to submit evidence of their English language competency with their application (IELTS 6.5 or equivalent)

Participants are expected to

- Undertake preparatory reading in advance of the program
- Attend all lectures and relevant seminar sessions
- Be actively engaged with their seminar topics
- Submit an assignment and/or present a paper for class discussion for each course taken
- Undertake approximately 96h of private study during the program

Certificates

All students who satisfactorily complete the program will receive an 'Attendance Certificate'. If seeking credit at your home institution you will also receive a 'Detailed Certificate' detailing contact hours, grades achieved, and private study hours.

Workshop Descriptions

Graduate Courses

Introduction to Middle English Literature

This course offers an opportunity to explore the rich and varied literature of medieval England. Moving through a range of genres including dream vision, elegy, romance, lyric and drama, we will discuss Middle English literature in the light of linguistic, historical and literary contexts. We will also explore how different critical traditions have attended medieval literature and will consider how our best guide to interpretation is often to be found in the manuscript contexts in which the works survive. Texts will include Chaucer's *Book of the Duchess*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *The Book of Margery Kempe*, *The Paston Letters*, and the morality play *Everyman*.

Tutor: **Dr Roger Dalrymple** is a Principal Lecturer at Buckinghamshire New University and was formerly Fellow and Tutor in English at St Hugh's College, Oxford.

Shakespeare, Knowledge, and Belief

During Shakespeare's lifetime transformations in ways of interpreting nature and the shape of the universe, and scepticism about the possibility of any certain knowledge radically changed the understanding of humankind's place in the world, while the Reformation and Counter-Reformation shook religious certainties, divided communities, and caused violent impositions and repressions of belief. This course will explore how Shakespeare's plays and poems register some of these shifts. We shall examine themes such as doubt, proof, and knowledge in *The Comedy of Errors*, *Othello*, and *The Winter's Tale*, and examine religious imagery and issues in *Titus Andronicus*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Hamlet*.

Tutor: **Dr Kathryn Murphy** is a Junior Research Fellow at Jesus College, Oxford. Her research interests are in Renaissance literature and philosophy. She has published on prose writing and drama in the period, edited a book entitled *A Man Very Studied: New Contexts for Thomas Browne*. She is currently editing works by Francis Bacon and Thomas Browne, and writing a book on Aristotle and early modern literature.

Shakespeare, Meaning and the History of Performance

In this seminar we will study the performance history of some key figures in Shakespeare's plays: Henry V, Shylock, Malvolio, Kate and Hamlet. Evaluating historical evidence, discussing stage productions and studying screen extracts of performance, we will consider the ways in which these characters have through the centuries undergone radical shifts in interpretation, constantly embodying new

meanings that reflect the changing preoccupations of the age. Key plays will be *Henry V*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Hamlet*. Tutor: **Dr John O'Connor** is Senior Visiting Lecturer at Cornell University, USA, and was formerly Principal Lecturer in English at Westminster College, Oxford.

The English Romantic Poets

The 'Romantic' period (c1780-1840) saw one of the great flowerings of creativity in England, particularly in poetry, alongside a great radicalisation of politics. The course will consider the major poets of the period in their intellectual context, exploring their formal innovations and interests in older traditions, and their new ideas of selfhood and politics. We will focus on the works of William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and John Keats, with opportunities to explore the works of Walter Scott, Percy Shelley, Mary Robinson, William Blake, John Clare, and others.

Tutor: **Dr Tom MacFaul** is Lecturer in English at Merton College, Oxford, where he teaches English Literature from the Renaissance to Romanticism. He has published many articles on poetry and drama, a book on *Male Friendship in Shakespeare and his Contemporaries*, and the forthcoming *Poetry and Paternity in Renaissance England*.

Jane Austen

In this course we shall be reading the work of Jane Austen with close critical attention in order to explore the qualities that have kept her novels among the world's favourite fiction for nearly two hundred years. We shall explore the structure and analyse the style of the six major novels, and extracts from some of the early works and fragments. We shall focus on the English language of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the narrative voice, focalisers and perspective, irony, dialogue, characterisation, and elements of style such as lexis and syntax.

Tutor: **Dr Sandie Byrne** is Director of the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education English Literature and Creative Writing international summer schools, and tutor for OUDCE online courses in English Literature; she was formerly Fellow and Tutor in English at Balliol College, Oxford, and Professor of English at the University of Lincoln.

Victorian Fiction

Novelists in the middle decades of the Victorian period produced searching analyses of their society, exploring its penchant for conformity, as well as its volatile mix of ideas about religion, politics, industry and empire. Representing the lives of all classes, the works of Charles Dickens, George Eliot and Thomas Hardy provide a cross-section of views in the contexts of the metropolitan, provincial and rural worlds. This course will examine three of these writers' masterpieces – *Bleak House*, *Middlemarch* and *The Return of the Native*.

Tutor: **Dr John Ballam** teaches English Literature and Creative Writing for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education.

Modernist Fiction

In this course we will be exploring key prose works of the modernist movement, including Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, D H Lawrence's *Women in Love*, James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and the short stories of Katherine Mansfield. Seminars will explore how literary form and language developed in relationship to fields such as psychology and the visual arts, and consider how fiction of the period drew on, as well as reacted against, social conventions of the time. Other writers discussed will include Joseph Conrad and Ford Madox Ford. Tutor: **Dr David Sergeant** is Lecturer in English and Mitchell Junior Research Fellow at Somerville College, Oxford.

Contemporary British Fiction

In recent years the British literary canon has expanded to include a wide range of voices, reflecting the multicultural nature of British society. This course will focus on a selection of those voices, discussing questions of race, class, gender and genre. The main texts we will focus on will be: Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*; Kazuo Ishiguro, *When We Were Orphans*; Ian McEwan, *Saturday*; and Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*. Tutor: **Dr Tara Stubbs** is Lecturer in English at St Peter's College, Oxford, where she teaches courses in English Literature from 1832 to the present day. She has published several articles on modernist poetry, and is currently working on a book on the influence of Irish culture on American literature during the modernist period.

Provisional Seminar Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09.00-10.30	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
11.00-13.00	Middle English Literature Modernist Fiction Shakespeare (O'Connor)	Romantic Poets Shakespeare (Murphy)	Middle English Literature Modernist Fiction Shakespeare (O'Connor)	Romantic Poets Shakespeare (Murphy)	
14.00-16.00	Contemporary Fiction Jane Austen	Victorian Fiction	Contemporary Fiction Jane Austen	Victorian Fiction	

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Undergraduate Strand Courses

Critical Reading (Mandatory)

This course explores the principles and practice of critical reading in English literature. We will develop tools for the close reading of poetry and prose and will refine the critical, linguistic and grammatical terminology that enables us to engage in detailed

analysis of all forms and genres of English literature. Seminars will be focused on discussion, debate, and active analysis of literary extracts spanning a wide chronological range and a variety of genres. There will also be an opportunity to engage with extracts from literary critics whose method of 'close reading' or 'practical criticism' mirrors the approach we shall be taking.

Tutor: **Dr Roger Dalrymple** was formerly Tutorial Fellow in English at St Hugh's College, Oxford, and is currently Principal Lecturer at Buckinghamshire New University. He has published a guide to criticism on Middle English writers and is author of a number of articles and essays on medieval and early modern literature.

Shakespeare on Stage and Screen

In this seminar we will explore the many different ways in which Shakespeare can be performed on stage and screen. While referring to a wide range of titles, we will focus our discussion on interpretations of four plays - *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, *Macbeth* and *The Merchant of Venice*. Viewing extracts which feature actors as diverse as Kenneth Branagh, Laurence Olivier, Judi Dench and Al Pacino, we will explore some key differences between stage and screen Shakespeare, consider the variety of approaches taken by directors, and compare different interpretations of the same play or role.

Tutor: **Dr John O'Connor** is Senior Visiting Lecturer at Cornell University, USA, and was formerly Principal Lecturer in English at Westminster College, Oxford.

Jane Austen and the Regency

This course will introduce students to the period in which Austen lived and wrote, and place the novels in their historical and cultural context. Students will learn about everyday life in the Regency: language; fashion; food; fun; as well as issues and events of national importance and of particular significance to the novels, such as religion, war, empire, the Regency, and Romanticism, and, of course, Austen's own life. We shall focus on *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park* and *Emma*.

Tutor: **Dr Sandie Byrne** is Director of the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education English Literature and Creative Writing international summer schools, and tutor for OUDCE online courses in English Literature; she was formerly Fellow and Tutor in English at Balliol College, Oxford, and Professor of English at the University of Lincoln.

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14.00-16.00	Shakespeare on Stage and Screen		Shakespeare on Stage and Screen		
16.15-18.15	Critical Reading Mandatory	Jane Austen and the Regency	Critical Reading Mandatory	Jane Austen and the Regency	

Accommodation

Students for this program will be accommodated at Exeter College. See the AIM Overseas website for more information: www.aimoverseas.com.au