The Department of English has sponsored this popular study abroad program in Oxford, England since 1984. The program is housed in the heart of Oxford, at Wadham College, where students may take up to two courses taught by UT-Austin Department of English faculty. Each course has a built-in travel component with weekly trips to locales such as London and Stratford, as well as places of special literary interest in and around Oxford. Program trips are included for all students regardless of which courses they take.

We welcome students of all majors who have an interest in English literature and culture and are eligible to take upper-division English courses. The Summer 2019 courses promise to have a wide appeal, with offerings on the modern performance of Shakespeare's plays, the legacies of courtly love & chivalric romance, and the representation of Oxford in Victorian literature. The 2019 Program will feature three dynamic teachers: Professors Daniel Birkholz, Allen MacDuffie, and Patricia Garcia.

The Oxford Summer Program fee is $6,000 per student. This fee includes: a private room, breakfasts and most dinners for the length of the program, chartered bus travel for program events, entrance fees and theatre tickets for all program trips, and a final banquet. Each student must also pay for: UT-Austin summer tuition, airfare, personal items, health insurance for the program's duration, additional meals, a $75 application fee, and any independent travel. Scholarships are available for Oxford Summer Program students; an application may be required. Most summer study abroad scholarships are awarded during the spring semester. Additional financial aid resources are available, including federal aid awarded through UT-Austin, primarily in the form of loans.

Program Faculty
Prof. Daniel Birkholz, Co-Director (birkholz@austin.utexas.edu)
Prof. Allen MacDuffie, Co-Director (allenmacduffie@austin.utexas.edu)
Prof. Patricia Garcia (pmgarcia@utexas.edu)

Graduate Assistant
Melissa Heide (m.heide@utexas.edu)

Information Session
Tuesday, September 18th
3:00-4:00 p.m.
Eastwoods Room, Union Building (UNB) 2.102
liberalarts.utexas.edu/english/undergraduate-program/Oxford-Summer-Program.php
E 321: Shakespeare
Prof. Patricia Garcia

This course studies selected plays of William Shakespeare, and we will be fortunate enough to view performances of the plays we study in Stratford upon Avon, Shakespeare’s birthplace and home to the Royal Shakespeare Company, and at the Globe Theater in London. We will also tour various Shakespeare historical sites in Stratford. As we read the plays, we will analyze Shakespeare’s use of dramatic action, imagery, and character to practice our critical thinking skills. As we view the plays, we will examine the company’s performance choices as they expand our understanding of the play’s themes and language. We will each keep a journal to record our responses to the reading and the viewing of plays. Finally, we will present our own short, informal performances of selected scenes or speeches to experience Shakespeare beyond the roles of reader and audience.

E 350R: Victorian Oxford
Prof. Allen MacDuffie

Oxford in the nineteenth century was a place of contradictions—a vibrant center for culture and artistic experimentation that always had one foot in the past; a place of inquiry and learning that was characterized by many exclusions and restrictions. In this course we will consider the university and the city of Oxford through the lens of a number of significant nineteenth-century texts set in and around the region and by artists with local ties. We will read (Oxford professor and librarian) Lewis Carroll’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass and visit some of the locales that inspired his famous flights of nonsense. We will discuss the Pre-Raphaelite movement in poetry and visual arts and take a tour of the Ashmolean Museum where many stunning paintings by members of this school can be found. We will also consider artists affiliated with the group like John Ruskin, Oscar Wilde, and William Morris. The Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museums will give us a sense of the period’s urge for collection and anthropological inquiry and thus provide a unique window into the culture of the British Empire when it was at its zenith. Thomas Hardy’s Jude the Obscure will give us a darker picture of life in nineteenth-century Oxford from the point of view of the excluded, while Max Beerbohm’s Zuleika Dobson and Jerome K. Jerome’s Three Men in a Boat will offer a slightly gentler and more comic picture.

E 352K: Arthurian Literature & Film
Prof. Daniel Birkholz

Every generation produces its own version of the Middle Ages. Using literature, film, and popular culture, this course examines how the conventions of medieval courtly love and chivalric romance have been utilized—often parodied—from the 14th century to the 21st. We will move from classics like Sir Gawain & the Green Knight and Malory’s Le Morte D’Arthur, through 19th-century romanticism and pragmatism, to the early British fantasists (Tolkien’s The Hobbit), feminist neo-paganists (The Mists of Avalon), and beyond (Neil Gaiman; Camelot 3000; Monty Python & the Holy Grail). Show-stoppers likely to include Mark Twain’s A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur’s Court; some unspeakably bawdy medieval fabliaux; and our very own Arthurian film fest. Camelot has become difficult to find, but expect excursions to sites such as Cornwall’s Tintagel Castle (where King Arthur was conceived); Glastonbury Abbey (where he’s buried); and Avalon Tor (inside of which he’s still living). Class will probably not be held at The Eagle & Child, the Oxford pub where Tolkien, Lewis & the Inklings met on Mondays between the wars…