



# Oxford Summer Program

**July 11<sup>th</sup>-  
August 15<sup>th</sup>  
2020**

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 2020 courses promise to have a wide appeal. The 2020 Program will feature three dynamic teachers: Professors Patricia Garcia, George Christian, and Oscar Casares.

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.

### Information Session

Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>  
3:00-4:00 p.m.  
RLP 1.302D

### Program Faculty

Prof. Patricia Garcia (pmgarcia@utexas.edu)  
Prof. George Christian (gschristian@utexas.edu)  
Prof. Oscar Casares (ohcasares@utexas.edu)

### Graduate Assistant

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### Student Coordinator

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## 2020 Course Descriptions

### English 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.

### English 350R: Literature of Oxford

**Prof. George Christian**

This course will survey fiction written with significant settings in and around Oxford. Our readings will focus on the ways in which these writers have "textualized" Oxford in historical, institutional, cultural, and political terms. Studying in Oxford will enable students to map the texts onto territorial and narrative domains and imagine "Oxford" as a crucial surface for the projection of desire. The immense variety of Oxonian fiction will allow us to read across multiple genres as well: children's literature, fantasy, satire, tragedy, mystery, and Christian apologetics, to name a few. The Oxford setting will allow students to experience the texts in their fullest sense and to become intimately acquainted with the place, its history, and its dreams. Texts will include Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*, Max Beerbohm's *Zuleika Dobson*, Dorothy Sayers' *Gaudy Night*, J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, and Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*.

### Creative Writing 325: Travel Writing

**Prof. Oscar Casares**

In this non-fiction writing workshop, students will read and discuss travel essays from a variety of writers covering different corners of the world, and eventually write their own essays that reflect some aspect of their time at Oxford. Some of the texts include *Neither Here nor There: Travels in Europe*, by Bill Bryson; *Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana*, by Stephanie Elizondo Griest; *A Small Place*, by Jamaica Kincaid; and *There and Then, the Travel Writing of James Salter*. A cross between straight-up journalism and the personal narrative, the travel essay aims to give its reader not just a sense of a distant locale but also how that particular writer came to process the experience. A major component of this form is the writer's "voice" on the page, which we will spend a considerable amount of time identifying in various texts. The goal here is for students to become more aware of the writer's language, both in its tonality and rhythm, as well its impact on the reader, and then use this insight to write their own personal narratives. Students will be encouraged to find material to write about on their walks around Oxford, their own weekend excursions, and on the Oxford Study Program's field trips, including a weekend trip to Dorset, along the southern Jurassic coast of England, where we will visit historical and cultural sites as well as the beautiful beaches and nature reserves of coast. The course will include a couple of shorter writing assignments on setting and scene development, a proposal for their travel essay, a peer review session, instructor feedback, revisions to early drafts, and finally a workshop.

