

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Summer Study Abroad in Oxford - June 23 – July 8, 2007

St. Benet's Hall, Oxford University

*The Foundations of Christian Culture:
History, Myth, Literature and Philosophy*
CAST 3994SP, HIST 4293SP, ENGL 3413SP

Sponsored by:

**CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES AND THE G.K. CHESTERTON
INSTITUTE FOR FAITH & CULTURE**

**with support from The Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership,
Seton Hall University and the Lilly Endowment**

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

- Saturday, June 23: Evening departure -- Meet at Recreation Center, Seton Hall University, for bus transport to Newark Airport and flight to London.
- Sunday, June 24: Morning arrival -- London, Heathrow Airport. Transport to St. Benet's Hall, Oxford.
12 Noon app. -- arrive St. Benet's Hall, check into rooms.
Lunch. Walking tour of Oxford.
6:00 pm -- Mass at Blackfriars, Oxford
Dinner at St. Benet's Hall.
- Monday, June 25 **Unit One:** The Foundations of Christian Culture: History
- Morning & Afternoon Sessions: Prof. Dermot Quinn**
Christian history is not simply the history of Christianity. On the contrary, it is a view of history itself. Proposing that the human story has significance beyond its physical and material appearances, the Christian sees history as charged with incarnational and redemptive meaning. It is stage and drama, the theater and the play itself. Unit One will explore this theme, placing it in cultural and philosophical context, and asking: What *is* Christian History? How do we come to understand it? Are its methods and arguments the same as those of other kinds of history? Can the Christian philosophy of history persuade non-Christians? Is this simply theology in disguise?
- Readings:**
Christopher Dawson, Dynamics of World History
St. Augustine, The City of God

Evening in Oxford: Father Leo Chamberlain, Master of Saint Benet's, describes the history of the college.

Tuesday, June 26

Unit One: The Foundations of Christian Culture: History

Morning & Afternoon Sessions: Prof. Dermot Quinn

Continuing the work of the first day, we will explore some "secular" theories of history, in particular those thinkers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries who offered merely materialist or determinist interpretations of the human story. What are the underlying assumptions of these views on man and his nature? Are they objective? What *is* objectivity anyway? Does it apply to history? How enlightened are these products of the enlightenment? What does it mean to be "modern"?

Readings:

Immanuel Kant, What is Enlightenment?

Russell Kirk, Redeeming the Time

Evening in Oxford: Visit to Christ Church Cathedral for Evensong followed by classical music concert

Wednesday, June 27

Day trip - tour of Canterbury Cathedral. Visit to Saint Dunstan's Church and the grave of Margaret Roper. Saint Martin's Church, Canterbury.

Thursday, June 28

Unit Two: The Foundations of Christian Culture: Literature

Morning and Afternoon Sessions: Prof. Nancy Enright

So far, we have considered history as the ground of revelation, the crucible of God's action in the world. In the next couple of days, we look more specifically at English literature, in particular the way in which writers have grappled with the drama of the moral life, that gap between where we are and where we ought to be. First we will look at "the crown and the cross" – the conflict between power, truth and conscience in medieval and early modern England

Readings:

The Venerable Bede. History of England

Anon. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, trans. J. R. R. Tolkien

T.S. Eliot, Murder in the Cathedral

Robert Bolt, A Man for All Seasons.

Sir Thomas More, Selected writings

Evening in Oxford: Punting

Friday, June 29

Unit Two: The Foundations of Christian Culture:
Literature

Morning and Afternoon Sessions: Prof. Nancy Enright

Continuing our literary investigations, we turn today to myths and fairy tales. Too often dismissed as day-dream or escapism, as self-conscious departures from the “real” world, these forms of story-telling are actually avenues towards a deeper understanding of that world. We will examine in particular the writings of two men of profound insight into the nature of myth, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

Readings:

J.R.R. Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings

J.R. R. Tolkien, “On Fairy Stories”

C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle

Evening in Oxford: Judith Topping, president of the Oxford University C.S. Lewis Society and Father Ian Boyd, CSB, President of the G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith and Culture

Saturday, June 30

Day trip to London - Westminster Abbey and Cathedral. The Houses of Parliament, Saint Paul’s Cathedral, The National Gallery.

Sunday, July 1

Mass at the Oratory, Oxford.
Afternoon trip to Woodstock and Blenheim Palace.

Monday, July 2

Unit Three: The Foundations of Christian Culture:
Philosophy and Literature

Morning and Afternoon sessions: Msgr. Richard Liddy

Looking behind the conflicts studied in Units One and Two, the first part of Unit Three asks what it means to think at all. We will explore the nature of “Christian realism,” asking how Christianity has been associated with the mankind’s quest for philosophical clarity and truth. Why has Christianity always been associated with “realist” philosophies, as distinct from other types of philosophies? What are the implications of a realist philosophy?

Readings:

Bernard Lonergan, Topics in Education (excerpts)

Bernard Lonergan, “The Origins of Christian Realism”

Saint Augustine, readings from The Confessions

Saint Thomas Aquinas, readings from Summa Contra Gentiles

Glenn Hughes, “Languages of Transcendence Across the Realms of Meaning”

Evening in Oxford: A visit to Keble College and a play in a college garden

Tuesday, July 3

Unit Three: The Foundations of Christian Culture: Philosophy and Literature

Morning and Afternoon sessions: Msgr. Richard Liddy

Continuing our epistemological explorations, we turn today from the seventeenth century – the age of Cartesian Rationalism – to more recent times. Since the scientific revolution and the Enlightenment, Christian theology has been engaged in a battle over the meaning of “knowing”, “objectivity” and “reality”. This segment will trace the origins of this battle to the rise of modern science and the various interpretations, “cover stories” and philosophies that have accompanied emerging science. It will also trace the “turn to the subject” in philosophy as well as the Christian response to this turn. In particular, it will highlight the role of Cardinal John Henry Newman and his influence on 20th century Christian theology.

John Henry Newman, The Oxford University Sermons,
John Henry Newman, “The Theory of Developments in Religion”

John Henry Newman, “The Philosophical Temper, First Enjoined by the Gospel”

Bernard Lonergan, “Theology in a New Context”

John Paul II, Fides et Ratio

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day. Excursion to the Kilns, Beaconsfield, Burford and the Cotswolds, TBD.

Thursday, July 5

Unit Four: The Foundation of Christian Culture:
The Poetry of Christian Abandonment

Morning Session: Prof. Nancy Enright

So far, we have looked at works dealing with the connections between monarchy and faith, fantasy and religion. Today we look at the interlocking themes of forgiveness and grace, in particular, in the work of English poets who have articulated, in language of great beauty and power, the drama of Christian grace and salvation in a world both fallen and redeemed. We will also look at Shakespeare's great play based on the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, *Measure for Measure*. Beginning with Shakespeare, we proceed to look at the "Metaphysical Poets", ending with the Jesuit poet (famously associated with Oxford), Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Readings:

William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*

George Herbert, "Love III," "Easter Wings"

John Donne, "Batter my Heart," "Death Be Not Proud"

Gerard Manley Hopkins, "God's Grandeur," "Pied Beauty"

Unit Four: The Foundations of Christian Culture:
Sacrament and Life

Evening in Oxford: Bishop Kallistos Ware, TBD

Friday, July 6

Unit Four: The Foundation of Christian Culture:
Catholicism as Concealment and Revelation

Morning Session: Clare Asquith

Clare Asquith, author of the recent and highly acclaimed book *Shadowplay*, leads our class today. In a subtle and exacting analysis of the plays of William Shakespeare, Mrs Asquith argues that the author's language both reveals and conceals his own hidden and risky Catholicism. We will

examine the strategies by which Catholics survived the dangers to their faith – and their lives – in Elizabethan and Jacobean England.

Readings:

Clare Asquith, Shadowplay

Peter Milward, SJ, Shakespeare the Papist

Afternoon Session: Msgr. Richard Liddy

Our final session deals with Catholicity and Contemporary Culture, summing up the themes of the course and trying to apply them to our world today. In particular, we will outline “the thrust to wholeness” that a contemporary Christian vision can – and must - encourage. We will attempt to discern the Spirit’s working in various – often unexpected—dimensions of contemporary culture: the arts, economics, sciences, philosophy, etc. Finally we will ask the most pressing question of all: how can Christians work together for the renewal of the world.?

John Haughey, S.J., “Catholicity and the University”

Saturday, July 7

Last day in Oxford

Evening in Oxford: End of school banquet
(dress smart casual)

Sunday, July 8

Morning Mass and departure for home.

DAILY SCHEDULE (preliminary)

7:30am	Morning Mass (optional)
8:00 am	Breakfast, St. Benet’s Dining Room
9:00 – 11:00	Morning Session*
11:00 – 2:00	Lunch break (Lunch 1:00 – 1:45 pm)
2:00 – 4:00	Afternoon Session*
4-7	Free time
6:30	Vespers (optional)
7:10 pm	Dinner, followed by Evening programs
10 pm:	Night Prayer

***All classes meet in Saint Benet’s Hall Lecture Room. All meals are likewise in Saint Benet’s.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT

1. Daily Journal
2. Full participation in all class sessions, including pre-departure sessions
3. A 12 page paper, fully annotated and with critical bibliography, discussing an aspect of work covered.

FACULTY

Msgr. Richard M. Liddy, Ph.D. Director, Center for Catholic Studies and University Professor of Catholic Thought, Seton Hall University, email: liddyric@shu.edu

Professor Dermot Quinn, D. Phil. (Oxon), Department of History, Seton Hall University, email: quinnder@shu.edu

Professor Nancy Enright, Ph.D., Department of English, Seton Hall University, email: enrignan@shu.edu

Special lecturer: Fr. Ian Boyd, CSB, President of the G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture and Editor of the *Chesterton Review*.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Contact Danute M. Nourse below for registration information. A brief application procedure is required. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: MARCH 1, 2007.**

Space is limited -- first come, first served.

COSTS

\$3200. per person, includes airfare, transports, full room (based on double occupancy) and board (3 meals per day), most field trips and excursions. Single room supplement is an additional \$500. **Deposit of \$1,000. due by March 31, 2007. Payment in full required prior to travel.** Course tuition is extra, with a 25% reduction for summer study. Students from other universities must contact their academic departments to arrange for credit acceptance and transfer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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