



Fall Term or Extended Oxford Academic Year Programme

(Fall Term = September + Michaelmas Term, September – December)

(Extended Oxford Academic Year = September + Academic year, September – June)

The Fall Term/Extended Oxford Academic Year Humanities programme offers you the opportunity to study *The Making and Unmaking of Modern Britain: Britishness and the Construction of National Identity in the Twenty-First Century*, a History and Politics course, during September. You would then choose another one or two subject(s) from Humanities, Sciences or Social Sciences to study for the remainder of your time in Oxford. This diverse and unique offering will allow you to study up to 3 different subject areas during your time at Oxford, as well as extend your time abroad.

**The Making and Unmaking of Modern Britain:
Britishness and the Construction of National Identity in the Twenty-First Century
September – History and Politics course**

Course Overview

To understand modern Britain, it is vital to know something of how British national identity has been formulated in an historical, political, social, and cultural sense. Is the story of Britain in the twenty-first century one of the making or unmaking of the nation? How have British institutions such as schools, the media, museums, and churches, helped or hindered the formation of a singular national identity? And to what extent have social constructions including class, race, gender, and sexuality, divided or united the British people? Drawing on the disciplines of history, political science, sociology, and art history, amongst others, this course serves to introduce students to some of the main debates exercising Britons today, and in so doing, highlights the wealth of primary sources available to students for research and evaluation in this field.

By the end of the course, students will be better equipped to understand the nature of British identities in the twenty-first century, to explain the role British institutions play in the formation of national identity, and to consider the ways in which class, race, gender, and sexuality shape the lived experiences of ordinary Brits. Students will also be better prepared to engage in current affairs debates about a range of controversial British domestic and foreign policy issues.

Teaching Methods

This course will be taught primarily through small, intensive tutorials (based variously on student essays and primary source extracts or 'gobbets'), with much room for developing independent, self-directed study. The course will be complimented by required supplementary activities and outings.

Supplementary Activities

Oxford is home to a diverse array of leading cultural institutions, including the Ashmolean Museum, the Pitt Rivers Museum, the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, the Museum of the History of Science, the Story Museum, Modern Art Oxford, Christ Church Picture Gallery, the New Theatre Oxford, and the Oxford Playhouse.

In addition to required visits, which constitute part of the course, students are actively encouraged to attend special events across the city, and a list of recommended activities will be circulated in the first class.