



O X F O R D  
S U M M E R  
A C A D E M Y

---

*Academic  
& Elective  
Options*

*July 2016*

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Major: Oxbridge Preparation	4
Minor: Oxbridge Preparation	4
<b>Mathematics and Science .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Major: Mathematics - Probability & Statistics	5
Major: Mathematics - Advanced Algebra	6
Major: Mathematics - Calculus	6
Minor: Mathematics - Geometry & Trigonometry	6
Minor: Mathematics - Algebra	7
Minor: Mathematics - Advanced Calculus	7
Minor: Mathematics for Mechanical Engineering	7
Major: Introduction to Particle Physics	8
Major: Medical Biology – Molecular & Cellular	8
Major: Medical Biology – Physiology & Neurology	9
Minor: Cancer – From Mutation to Cure	9
Minor: Pandemics	10
<b>Literature and Drama.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Major: Shakespeare and Friends	10
Major: Perspectives on Poetry	11
Minor: The Wonderful World of Short Stories	12
Minor: Gothic Fiction	13
<b>Social Sciences .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Major: Psychology – Inside the Human Mind	13
Minor: Psychology - Crime & Punishment	14
Major: Macroeconomic Issues	15
Minor: Economic Curiosities	16
Major: Law - An Introduction to Legal Concepts	17
Minor: Law - Human Rights	18

Minor: British & American Politics - A Comparative Study	18
<b>Humanities .....</b>	<b>19</b>
Major: World War I & World War II	19
Minor: The Tudors	20
Major: Modern International Relations	21
Major: Philosophy of Revolution: What were they thinking?	21
Minor: Philosophy - What is a Good life?	22
Major: Introduction to Latin	22
Minor: Classical Mythology	23
Major or Minor: Critical Thinking – The Art of Reasoning	24
<b>Languages .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Major: French Language & Culture - Intermediate Level	24
Minor: French Language & Culture - Beginners	25
Major: Spanish - Beginners	26
Minor: Spanish - Intermediate	27
<b>Electives.....</b>	<b>27</b>
Elective: Public Speaking & Debate	27
Elective: Profile Your Personality	27
Elective: Film, TV & Theatre Reviewing	28
Elective: Creative Writing	28
Elective: Photography	28
Elective: Sport	28

## Introduction

For each fortnight the student attends, they study 1 major, 1 minor and 1 elective course. Students can pick any combination of courses from those listed below. We will ask you to select a first and second choice for your major, minor and elective courses, in case your first choice course is no longer available.

### Major: Oxbridge Preparation

Prerequisites: None

Broad Aims: A certain air of mystery surrounds the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in general, and the path to gaining a place is no exception to this.

This course aims to equip current and prospective applicants to Oxford and Cambridge Universities with information, techniques and confidence in order to make an arduous and nerve-wracking process a little less daunting.

Detailed Objectives: To provide participants with

- a better understanding of the application process
- information, advice and preparation for admissions tests and interviews
- a picture of life as an Oxbridge student
- an opportunity to find out more about study at Oxford and Cambridge
- an opportunity to put questions to people who have been through the process

Syllabus:

- Overview of the application/admissions process
- Personal statement surgery
- Tell Me About a Banana: Dealing with those infamous interview questions
- Practice interviews
- Admissions tests
- College visit
- Oxbridge myths: true and false
- Q&A session
- What does a successful candidate look like?

No. of hours tuition: 18

Class Size: 1-6

### Minor: Oxbridge Preparation

Prerequisites: None.

Broad Aims: A certain air of mystery surrounds the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in general, and the path to gaining a place is no exception to this.

This course aims to equip current and prospective applicants to Oxford and Cambridge Universities with information, techniques and confidence in order to make an arduous and nerve-wracking process a little less daunting.

Detailed Objectives:	To provide participants with <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a better understanding of the application process</li><li>• information, advice and preparation for admissions tests and interviews</li><li>• a picture of life as an Oxbridge student</li><li>• an opportunity to put questions to people who have been through the process</li></ul>
Syllabus:	Areas covered by this course will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of the application/admissions process</li><li>• Personal statement writing</li><li>• Interview technique</li><li>• Practice interviews</li><li>• Admissions testing</li><li>• Q&amp;A session</li></ul>
No. of hours tuition:	9
Class Size:	1-6

## Mathematics and Science

### Major: Mathematics - Probability & Statistics

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	Many subjects in the social sciences require students to have a working knowledge of probability and statistics. This course aims to introduce students to key concepts in probability and statistics and to develop problem-solving skills.
Detailed Objectives:	Students will develop understanding of concepts in probability and statistics and the ability to solve problems. The course will emphasise how to tackle problems that arise in other disciplines, for example, psychology and economics.
Summary of Syllabus:	Elementary Probability: definitions, formulae, tree diagrams; Probability Distributions; Mean and Variance; The Binomial Distribution; The Normal Distribution; The Poisson Distribution; Hypothesis Testing; Regression and correlation.
No. of hours tuition:	18 hours
Class Size:	1-6

## Major: Mathematics - Advanced Algebra

Prerequisites:	Some experience with algebra, for example, polynomials, linear and quadratic equations, rational functions and their graphs, logarithms, inequalities.
Broad Aims:	This course develops students' understanding of functions and provides a strong foundation for the study of calculus.
Detailed Objectives:	Students are encouraged to develop problem-solving skills and in particular, familiarity with functions and their properties.
Summary of Syllabus:	The concept of a function and its graph; the domain and range of a function; composite functions and inverse functions; examples of functions e.g. Quadratic, cubic, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric; curve sketching of rational functions; the modulus function; inequalities; complex numbers; series; the Binomial Theorem.
No. of hours tuition:	18 hours
Class Size:	1-6

## Major: Mathematics - Calculus

Prerequisites:	Some knowledge of functions and their properties
Broad Aims:	This course introduces students to the concept of a limit, and building on this, differentiation and integration.
Detailed Objectives:	During this course, students will develop skill and confidence in problem-solving involving differentiation and integration.
Summary of Syllabus:	Limits and Continuity; Differentiation; The Product, Quotient and Chain Rules; Applications of Differentiation; Integration; Applications of Integration.
No. of hours tuition:	18 hours
Class Size:	1-6

## Minor: Mathematics - Geometry & Trigonometry

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	This course introduces students to elementary geometry and trigonometry.
Detailed Objectives:	Students are encouraged to develop the skills of logical thinking and to learn how to construct mathematical proofs.
Summary of Syllabus:	Introduction to Logic; Proofs of Geometric Theorems; Parallel Lines, Triangles, Similarity, Circles; Co-ordinate Geometry; Euclidean Geometry; Definitions and Graphs of Trigonometric Functions; Solving Triangles with Laws of sines and cosines; Trigonometric Formulae and Equations; Radians.
No. of hours tuition:	9 hours
Class Size:	1-6

### **Minor: Mathematics - Algebra**

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	This course introduces students to the study of algebra.
Detailed Objectives:	Students are encouraged to develop problem-solving skills and in particular, are introduced to functions and their properties.
Summary of Syllabus:	Polynomials; The Factor and Remainder Theorems; Linear and Quadratic Equations; Rational Functions and their Graphs; Inequalities; Irrational Numbers; Complex Numbers; Logarithms.
No. of hours tuition:	9 hours
Class Size:	1-6

### **Minor: Mathematics - Advanced Calculus**

Prerequisites:	Some prior knowledge of limits, differentiation and integration.
Broad Aims:	This course builds on students' existing understanding of calculus and focuses on more complex topics.
Detailed Objectives:	This course has two emphases: Firstly, students will develop a rigorous understanding of the concept of a limit; secondly, students will develop confidence and skill in tackling challenging problems in calculus.
Summary of Syllabus:	The concept of a limit and its rigorous definition; implicit and parametric differentiation; differential equations; series expansions; applications of calculus e.g. Arc length, surface area, volumes.
No. of hours tuition:	9 hours
Class Size:	1-6

### **Minor: Mathematics for Mechanical Engineering**

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	This course is designed to introduce students to some of the key topics in mechanics that are necessary to develop an understanding of mechanical engineering.
Detailed Objectives:	Students will study topics in mechanics and thus build a foundation upon which some aspects of mechanical engineering can be studied.
Summary of Syllabus:	Mathematical models in mechanics; vectors in mechanics; statics of a particle; Forces treated as vectors, Resolution of forces, equilibrium of a particle under coplanar forces, weight, normal reaction, tension, friction, coefficient of friction; dynamics of a particle moving in a straight line or plane; moments.
No. of hours tuition:	9 hours
Class Size:	1-6

## Major: Introduction to Particle Physics

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	This is an intensive course designed to introduce students to some of the key topics in physics that are necessary to develop an understanding of particle physics.
Detailed Objectives:	Students will study topics in mechanics and electromagnetism and thus build a foundation upon which some aspects of particle physics can be studied.
Summary of Syllabus:	Mechanics: linear and angular momentum, kinetic energy, elastic and inelastic collisions, centripetal force and acceleration; electromagnetism: charge, electric fields, magnetic fields, Fleming's left-hand rule, Faraday's law, Lenz's law; Particle Physics: atomic structure, particle accelerators, the Standard Quark-Lepton model, the behaviour of matter on a subatomic scale.
No. of hours tuition:	18 hours
Class Size:	1-6

## Major: Medical Biology – Molecular & Cellular

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	This course will focus on providing a basic knowledge of physiology and biochemistry of the human body. By highlighting prevalent pathological conditions in these areas we aim to make the science of the body exciting and most important of all, interesting.
Detailed Objectives:	By the end of the two week period the student will have a strong foundation of the underlying science of the body. The way in which the course is taught will enhance the students lateral thinking abilities, a skill which is embraced and enhanced in both Oxbridge and the medical world. The students will also have worked in a group to read and analyse a scientific paper and will have prepared a talk on their own to present to the group.
Summary of Syllabus:	The anatomy section of the course will cover the musculoskeletal system as well as the anatomy of the heart and lungs. The physiology component of the course will follow on from this by discussing the physiology of the heart and lungs. This will be complemented by teaching on the parasympathetic and sympathetic nervous systems, as well as nervous transmission. The biochemistry aspect of the course will entail teaching on enzyme kinetics alongside medical and molecular genetics.
No. of hours tuition:	18 hours
Class Size:	1-6



## Major: Medical Biology – Physiology & Neurology

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	This course will focus on providing an advanced knowledge of the human body by focusing on the more challenging areas of medicine, namely neurology and pathology. By highlighting prevalent pathological conditions in these areas we aim to make the science of the body exciting and most important of all, interesting.
Detailed Objectives:	By the end of the two week period the student will have an understanding of basic neurology. In addition to this they will have an appreciation of the immune system and the major viruses, bacteria and parasites that affect it. The way in which the course is taught will enhance the students lateral thinking abilities, a skill which is embraced and enhanced in both Oxbridge and the medical world. The students will also have worked in a group to read and analyse a scientific paper and will have prepared a talk on their own to present to the group.
Summary of Syllabus:	The neurology section of the course will cover basic neuroanatomy including knowledge of the cerebellum and basal ganglia. The visual and auditory systems will also be discussed. The pathology section of the course will focus equally on the immune system and infection. The components of the immune system and their regulation will be taught, as will the diseases caused by major microbes affecting the world today and why they are so prevalent.
No. of hours tuition:	18 hours
Class Size:	1-6

## Minor: Cancer – From Mutation to Cure

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	Cancer currently affects one in three of us, yet many people have little knowledge behind the convoluted process by which a cancer cell evolves. By the end of the course, students will be able to talk confidently about the mechanism of cancer, and will be inspired to consider novel cancer therapies.
Detailed Objectives:	The course will lay the foundations for a robust understanding and appreciation of the mechanisms of cellular signalling, and the pathways by which their disruption can allow a cell to become cancerous. Students will be encouraged to develop their problem solving skills, and gain new knowledge to evaluate the current cancer treatment options, and to discuss the ways in which these could be improved.
Summary of Syllabus:	The ultrastructure of an animal cell, mitosis, protein structure, DNA structure and the genetic code, mutation and DNA repair, the cell cycle and the role of cyclin-dependent kinases, the role of tumour suppressor and proto-oncogenes, and introduction to cell signalling, cancer treatment and the current limitations.

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Minor: Pandemics

Prerequisites: None

**Broad Aims:** This course focuses on the threat of pandemics, epidemics on a global scale that have emerged and re-emerged over the centuries and spread at such a frequency to cause wide-spread illness, panic and death. From the bubonic plague to the most recent threat of the ebola virus, we will look at the origins of some of the worst epidemics to ever plague mankind. We aim to uncover the causes of these deadly diseases, and ultimately to explore how medicine has evolved in the struggle to treat the major epidemic killers of the past, present and future.

**Detailed Objectives:** By the end of the two week period the student will have an understanding of the threat that contagious disease poses to modern societies. In addition, they will have an appreciation of how ancient societies also struggled against the menace of the spread of such diseases. Importantly, through comparison of the modern world with the past, they will see how human action has been both constructive and destructive in terms of arming societies against the threat of epidemics.

**Summary of Syllabus:** The course will begin by introducing the concept of a contagious disease outbreak, and the means by which one such outbreak can spread to epidemic and pandemic proportions. Each subsequent lesson will involve a detailed exploration of an infectious disease responsible for one of the world's worst epidemics. The role of both the causative agent and the larger environment in which the disease exists will be examined, alongside the developments in the treatment of disease.

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Literature and Drama

### Major: Shakespeare and Friends

**Prerequisites:** None compulsory – but some knowledge of at least one or two Shakespeare plays would be useful.

**Broad aims:** To understand Shakespeare in the literary context in which he was writing, as well as to appreciate the vibrant and exciting scope of Renaissance literature

beyond the bard. The course should inform work on Shakespeare and other writers in school, further study and for personal enjoyment.

**Detailed objectives:** Students will gain a broad overview of both Shakespeare's writing and the work of other key London writers at the end of the sixteenth and start of the seventeenth centuries. The course will see Shakespeare as a man of his time, writing in a fiercely competitive literary and theatrical market place. Students will be asked to critically evaluate Shakespeare's status among modern audiences and ask whether any of his contemporaries deserve the same level of critical attention, historical and popular affection that we give Shakespeare today.

**Summary of syllabus:** Shakespeare's work will be considered alongside extracts from relevant contemporary writers. These may include Shakespeare's rivals in London's theatres, Marlowe, Kyd, Webster and Jonson; his famous collaborators, Middleton and Fletcher; as well as work on which Shakespeare is thought to have collaborated, such as *Arden of Faversham*. Other writers from the same literary culture may also be considered such as the poet Mary Sidney, satirist Thomas Nashe and Shakespeare's clown Will Kempe.

**No. of Tuition hours:** 18

**Class size:** 1-6

## Major: Perspectives on Poetry

**Prerequisites:** A keen interest in all types of poetry and the willingness to learn and apply techniques of literary criticism and appreciation to the material studied on the course.

**Broad Aims:** To broaden your understanding and enjoyment of a wide variety of poetry, ranging from Old English (Anglo-Saxon) verse to the present day.

**Detailed Objectives:** To equip you with the skills and confidence needed to analyse and evaluate with conviction the work of an eclectic mix of poets and poetic forms. The material studied will include selections from Chaucer, the sonnets of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, poems by Milton, Donne, Pope, the Romantics, war poetry and the works of T.S. Eliot, W.B. Yeats, W.H. Auden, Roy Campbell, Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney.

Clarity of thought and expression, coupled with fluent and cogent argument, are highly prized attributes at university, and this course aims to ensure that you will both acquire and readily demonstrate them when the need arises.

**Summary of Syllabus:** Close study, critical examination, analysis and evaluation of poetic form, content and meaning. Particular attention will be given to detailed

exploration of authorial intentions, the techniques employed and the degree of success attained in achieving them.

No. of hours tuition: 18

Class size: 1-6

## Minor: The Wonderful World of Short Stories

**Prerequisites:** A love of reading and listening to stories and of thinking about what you read. Interest in human nature. Curiosity. An interest in understanding the development of the short story and its role in reflecting social changes in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

**Broad aims:** Consideration of what it is that makes a short story short, what it is capable of and why is it one of the great literary forms of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

**Detailed Objectives:** To read a variety of modern short stories written in or translated into the English language. This includes American short stories and short stories from and about other cultures.

To trace their history and development as a significant art form in our time. How do short stories differ from the novel?

To read for enjoyment and to consider the influence of writers like Chekhov, Poe, Katherine Mansfield, Achibe Chinua, Malcolm Bradbury, A.S. Byatt, Elizabeth Bowen, Angela Carter, Raymond Carver, James Joyce, Alice Munro, Frank O'Connor, Virginia Woolf, Rudyard Kipling, Joseph Conrad and many others.

To write your own short stories.

**Summary of syllabus:** Reading a variety of short stories in English for pleasure. How relevant is the short story to our times?

How does the aim and structure of a short story differ from that of a novel?

How and why did it evolve in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

How does it reflect and complement the accelerated speed of modern life?

The modernist short story - "*complete with missing parts*"

Post-modernist stories 1930-80

Post-colonial and other stories.

No. of tuition hours: 9

Class size: 1 - 6

## Minor: Gothic Fiction

Prerequisites: None

Broad Aims: To explore some of the key themes in Gothic literature from its roots in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries up to the modern day. To have fun, enjoying horror stories, fairy tales and romanticism engaging with the scary, gruesome, romantic and sometimes macabre.

Detailed Objectives: Students will understand the origins and development of the genre, analysing a range of famed texts such as *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*.

Summary of Syllabus: The course will include a lively and exciting array of the weird and macabre, gaining a broad overview of early gothic writers' techniques and texts. They will then discover the ways these themes develop in the nineteenth century, and may draw parallels to more modern texts, such as *Twilight*, *The Vampire Diaries* and Angela Carter's rewriting of classic fairy tales in *The Bloody Chamber*. The study will involve close analysis of original texts, combined with evaluation of gothic literature's appeal, both contextually and historically. The syllabus may include vampires (e.g. Bram Stoker's *Dracula*); ghosts (e.g. Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw*, Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*); man-made monsters (e.g. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and Wilde's *The Portrait of Dorian Grey*); zombies in Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and more recent Gothic texts such as *Southern Gothic* and the *Grotesque*, and *Modern and Steampunk Horror*. Novels and novellas will largely be presented via extracts; poems and short stories will usually be read in full. Photocopies will be provided.

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Social Sciences

### Major: Psychology – Inside the Human Mind

Prerequisites: None

Broad Aims: How we think, interpret and experience the world around us has been delighting and frustrating psychologists for over 100 years. This course introduces you to a wide range of psychological approaches, including Psychodynamic, Behavioural, Cognitive and Biological psychologies. All of

which seek to explain the diversity of human behaviour. We will examine areas such as memory, individual differences including psychopathology, social influence and stress. This course aims to give you a general overview of the subject.

- Detailed Objectives:
- 1) To give students an introduction to the development of psychological theories and their associated methodologies.
  - 2) To provide a broad understanding of the key approaches in Psychology.
  - 3) To develop an awareness of the ethics and debates of current psychological research

Summary of Syllabus:

- An overview of the development of psychological thought over the past 100 years and its associated methodological changes.
- An introduction to Psychodynamic, Behavioural, Cognitive and Biological Psychologies
- Aspects of psychopathology
- A general understanding of the tensions that exist between the various approaches in modern psychology.

No. of hours tuition: 18 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Minor: Psychology - Crime & Punishment

Prerequisites: None

Broad Aims: Why do some people turn to a life of crime? Do we always convict the right guy? And when, if ever, should we lock them up and throw away the key? This course will explore Psychology's contributions to such questions, with some surprising answers...

This course will provide an overview of psychological research into Crime and Punishment, demonstrating how a scientific understanding of the causes of human behaviour can improve all aspects of criminal justice. Considering the different stages of the process of criminal behaviour and justice will facilitate introduction to the assumptions and methodologies of different branches of Psychology.

Detailed Objectives:

- 1) To develop an understanding of the complexity involved in identifying the causes of human behaviour
- 2) To develop an awareness of the issues surrounding how we treat suspects, witnesses, jury members, and prisoners
- 3) To know how the different branches of scientific psychology operate, and the types of evidence they use

- 4) To be able to critically evaluate psychological studies, explaining how their strengths and weaknesses influence their value for influencing policy

Summary of Syllabus:

- “My genes made me do it!”: determinants of behaviour and ‘Nature vs Nurture’ (*Biological Psychology and Social Learning*)
- Criminal Thinking Patterns and the Development of Morality (*Individual Differences, Psychopathology, and Developmental Psychology*)
- Psychology in the Courtroom: ‘Flashbulb memories’, the Reliability of Eye-witness Testimony, and the Psychology of Persuasion (*Cognitive Psychology*)
- Offender Punishment and Rehabilitation: What works and why? (*Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Learning Theory*)

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Major: Macroeconomic Issues

Prerequisites: No previous knowledge of Economics is assumed.

Aims: The aim of the course will be to develop some understanding of the issues which concern Economic policy makers in the modern Mixed Economy. This should serve as a useful introduction to those considering choosing Economics as an elective either at High School or during first year University study. Participation in the course will give students a head start in the subject and dispel many of the doubts which are often present amongst those opting for the discipline.

Summary of Syllabus: The topics to be considered will be:

1. Tools of analysis. The Aggregate Demand/Aggregate Supply model. Determinants of consumption. Investment, Government Spending and the Trade Balance. Keynesian and neo-Classical views of AD/AS. Impacts on the Macroeconomy of shifts in AD/AS. Causes of these disturbances.
2. Keynesian Fiscal Policy. Multiplier, Accelerator and Stock Adjustment concepts. Criticisms of Keynesian Policy. The Crowding Out Effect, Balance of Payments, Constraint, Inflation.
3. Monetary Policy. The Fisher equation. Use of interest rate policy by the Federal Reserve Board and the Bank of England to influence Economic performance. Inflation targeting. Price expectations.
4. Exchange Rate Policy. Determination of E/R values. Consideration of Fixed and Floating regimes. The Dornbusch model and the Marshall-Lerner

condition. Effects of E/R changes on the domestic economy. Methods of currency change.

5. Supply Side Economic policy. The role of tax cuts and labour market incentives. Laffer and Phillips curves. Impacts on short and long run AS. The Aggregate Labour market.

6. Trade Protection. Impact of tariffs, quotas and other protectionist devices on the Balance of payments and the domestic economy. The issue of retaliation and the role of the World Trade Organisation. Criticism of trade protection.

7. Free Trade and Globalisation. The theory of Comparative advantage and Gains from Trade. Smith, Ricardo and modern Free Trade models. Free trade in the Growth model. The Washington consensus.

8. The issue of Inflation. Measurement of inflation. Causes of price rises. Property rights and inflation. Impact on the real economy: wealth, savings and investment impacts. The eclectic theory.

9. Unemployment. Different classifications of unemployment. Policies to reduce impacts. Labour market adjustment. The decline of low unemployment as an Economic objective.

No. of hours tuition: 18 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Minor: Economic Curiosities

Prerequisites: None. The material delivered will be non-technical and no prior knowledge of Economics or Economic History will be assumed. All that is required is a curious mind!

Broad Aims: To introduce some of the most important concepts, models and theories involved in Economics in an accessible and engaging way.

Detailed Objectives: Using accessible and enjoyable popular Economics texts as a starting point, this course aims to provide participants with an insight into how Economics can be used to shed light on many areas of life, including some that might be surprising.

Students will be encouraged to read and think critically and reflectively – skills that are essential to the study of Economics and many other academic disciplines.

Topics such as opportunity cost, comparative advantage, the role of incentives and moral hazard will provide a valuable grounding for anyone studying or planning to study Economics, as well as providing useful tools for thinking about everyday issues for the non-economist.

Syllabus: Topics will be taken from the following books/papers:

- The Undercover Economist by Tim Harford



- Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
- Nudge by Richard H Thaler, Cass R Sunstein
- Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman
- The Armchair Economist by Steven E. Landsburg
- Superfreakonomics by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
- The Biggest Auction Ever by Ken Binmore and Paul Klemperer
- Do Economists Recognize an Opportunity Cost When They See One? by Paul Ferraro and Laura Taylor
- Animal Spirits by George A. Akerlof and Robert J. Shiller

Examples of questions considered are:

How can your name affect how well you do in life?; Who really makes money from fair trade coffee?; How do you get twenty-two and a half billion pounds from selling air?; Are people hard-wired for altruism or selfishness?; Why do we assume a good-looking person will be more competent?

No. of hours tuition: 9  
Class Size: 1-6

## Major: Law - An Introduction to Legal Concepts

Prerequisites: None. Background knowledge of law is not required for an understanding of this course.

Broad Aims: This course aims to introduce students to universal concepts of prominent areas of law such as contract and criminal law, explaining the genesis of widely applicable legal concepts and the reasoning behind such, while also presenting an introduction to legal philosophy and the nature of law.

Detailed Objectives: In studying key legal concepts drawn from different areas of the law, students become more aware of important reasoning skills and the role of judges in interpreting different sources of law to reach an ultimate decision. These reasoning skills are extremely transferable and useful for other areas of study. The course will give students a greater understanding of the structure of the UK's legal system and the relationship between the judiciary and Parliament, as well as identifying issues of legitimacy within the law. Case studies develop analytical skills while the space for interpretation in the law allows for lively debate. Discussions of the nature of the law engage philosophical ideas and elevate the legal study beyond simple factual analysis, adding extra value.

Summary of Syllabus: The course will cover basic concepts of Contract, Tort and Criminal Law, three key areas of legal study, against the backdrop of the legal system's structure and with reference to legal philosophy. In Contract law students will learn about the creation of contracts and the remedies for breach. In Tort law students will learn about the tort of negligence and the concept of duty of care and the consequences of its breach. In Criminal law students will learn

about the different components of crimes, sentencing measures and the development of the current legal system.

No. of hours tuition: 18 hours

Class Size: 1-6

### **Minor: Law - Human Rights**

Prerequisites: None

Broad Aims: This course aims to give students an introduction to human rights law and an understanding of specific rights conferred upon individuals by the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Detailed Objectives: Students will consider how the law looks to protect an individual's human rights, the responsibility of the state to enforce these rights and question when and whether it is necessary to restrict human rights. The course will specifically introduce Human Rights and their incorporation into UK Law through the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Human Rights Act 1998. Students will learn about specific rights such as the right to life, the right to liberty, the right to a private life, the right to freedom of expression and consider the distinction between absolute and qualified rights.

Summary of Syllabus: When considering a right to life, students will consider at what point a right to life begins, whether a right to life amounts to a right to death and debate whether any such right should be limited in regards to capital punishment. Students will consider and discuss how modern concerns in regards to terrorism could infringe upon an individual's rights, whether such an infringement is justifiable and what the balance should be. Students will also look at the freedom of the press and how their freedom of expression will often conflict with an individual's right to privacy.

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours

Class Size: 1-6

### **Minor: British & American Politics - A Comparative Study**

Prerequisites: An awareness of some knowledge of American society and politics.

Broad Aims: To give students an awareness of the similarities and differences between UK and US politics. An exploration of the so called 'Special Relationship' between Washington and London.

Detailed Objectives: As part of a comparative study, to develop an awareness of the underlying concepts and theories of the relations between states, i.e. The UK and the USA. To research topics relating to these case studies.

**Outcomes:** To present information gained from research in both oral and written form. To complete classroom work, as set by the tutor, using a range of material and working both on an individual basis and as part of a group.

**Summary of Syllabus:**

- Political ideas, institutions and values in Britain and the United States.
- The UK and US Constitutions compared.
- The differences between Presidential and Prime Ministerial power.
- The US Supreme Court and the UK courts -protecting liberties?
- Congress and Parliament- the same or different?
- The American and British political party system.
- Voting and Elections.
- Pressure Groups - Good or Bad for democracy?
- Some conclusions on US/UK politics.

**No. of hours tuition:** 9 hours

**Class Size:** 1-6

## Humanities

### Major: World War I & World War II

**Prerequisites:** None

**Broad Aims:** An overview of the two greatest and most traumatic conflicts in human history, the First and Second World Wars. The course will examine the conflict in terms of military and social history, in order to grasp the totality of the experience of these wars on their belligerents.

**Detailed Objectives:** Although prerequisite knowledge of the period is not required, many students will come to the course with preconceptions about the two World Wars, shaped by popular memory and popular culture. Such preconceptions will be assessed and challenged throughout the course, and the students will hopefully go away with a much fuller grasp of both how and why both these conflicts were fought. Historiography will also play an important role, and the changing reaction of historians and populations to the World Wars will form an important part of lessons.

**Summary of Syllabus:** Whilst two weeks study can never claim to cover every aspect of these vast and sprawling wars, the course will seek - as far as is possible - to give as broad a perspective as possible. Starting with the First World War, the 'classic' question pertaining to the causes of the war will be examined, before moving on to the Western Front, and examining whether the myriad popular perceptions that exist in this area should still hold weight. Finally, the fact that the war was not confined to a few stretches of muddy wasteland in Northern

France will also be studied, as will the reasons why we might consider this the first global war. The course will not solely contain military history, and one lesson will be given over to study of the home front and the massive social changes that the two wars precipitated, as civilians were drawn into the conflict in an unprecedented way. A further lesson will solely look at post-World War One reconstructualism, and the effects of the conflict on the 1920s. Moving on to the Second World War, the approach will be more thematic. The Nazi triumphs up to 1942 will be discussed, as will the claim that the British can in any way claim to have ended the war. We will also be discussing the rise of German fascism which will precipitate a sobering look at the darkest moment in human history: the holocaust. Finally, we will look at the Pacific theatre, and in particular, the ethics of the use of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

No. of hours tuition: 18 hours  
Class Size: 1-6

## Minor: The Tudors

Prerequisites: Basic understanding of Tudor period is helpful

Broad Aims: This course aims to provide the student with a taste of what studying Tudor history at university level would be like through a thematic approach to the period. The student will be introduced to new ways of analysing history which move beyond a simple chronological narrative approach, engaging with a range of primary sources.

Detailed Objectives: The student will gain a firm comprehension of the period, whilst focus on specific themes, supported by source analysis and essays, will allow for more in-depth knowledge of the period and its historiography. The student will learn how to approach primary sources objectively and extract the most significant information. A requirement of an essay a week which will be marked and discussed in class will help develop the student's essay technique, while consideration of contemporary historiographical debate will encourage the student to consider how to formulate a strong historical argument.

Summary of Syllabus:

- Effects and Sources of the Reformation
- Political Style of the Tudors
- Elizabeth I's Religious Policy
- Early Modern Gender Issues

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours  
Class Size: 1-6

## Major: Modern International Relations

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	The course intends to examine the topic of International Relations in the world today and to relate it to contemporary issues of importance to all of us.
Detailed Objectives:	The course intends to stimulate an interest in and awareness of the political, economic, diplomatic and military aspects of International Relations so that the foundations are laid for possible further study in the future.
Summary of Syllabus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of the theory and practice of International Relations in the 20th century.</li><li>• Centres of political, economic and military power today.</li><li>• Issues of peace and war and regional conflicts.</li><li>• Ideological influences on International Relations.</li><li>• International Relations, law and justice.</li></ul>
No. of hours tuition:	18 hours
Class Size:	1-6

## Major: Philosophy of Revolution: What were they thinking?

Prerequisites:	It would benefit the student to have had some prior exposure to the historical or philosophical subjects of the course, although no previous study is required.
Broad Aims:	Philosophy has shaped the world today and influenced how we organise our social and political life. This course introduces the student to the study of philosophy methods through an exploration of the theories that motivated the following social and political movements: the French and American revolutions, the Russian and Chinese revolutions, and the sexual revolution. Changing understandings of mankind were at the root of these three movements, and informed a theoretically better way to govern or organise human life.
Detailed Objectives:	By the end of this course, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• use terminology and methods of inquiry, analysis, and criticism accurately;</li><li>• identify, evaluate and construct philosophical arguments;</li><li>• understand the philosophical antecedents to political and social change.</li></ul>
Summary of Syllabus:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The French and American Revolutions: the idea of human rights. Selected texts by Montesquieu, Rousseau, Locke, Mill</li><li>2. The Russian and Chinese Revolution: the idea of class, and the idea of the rights of society. Selected Texts from Hegel, Marx, Lenin, and Mao</li></ol>

3. The Sexual Revolution: view of gendered personality, and equality of rights.  
Selected texts from Freud, De Beauvoir, Friedan, and Foucault

No. of hours tuition: 18 hours

Class Size: 1-6

### **Minor: Philosophy - What is a Good life?**

Prerequisites: None

Broad Aims: This course considers nine great thinkers' ideas on what constitutes human happiness and how best to go about attaining it. Considering their arguments will familiarize the student with the central themes of Western philosophy, and develop the ability to assess and construct arguments.

Detailed Objectives: At the end of this course the student will be able to:

- Use philosophical terminology correctly
- Refer to notable philosophers and their ideas
- Identify several schools of thought on the meaning of life
- Summary of Syllabus: Over the two weeks the class will examine extracts from these nine works:
  - Plato The Republic
  - Aristotle The Nicomachean Ethics
  - Jean-Jacques Rousseau The Social Contract
  - Hobbes Of Man
  - Schopenhauer On the Suffering of the World
  - Nietzsche Thus Spoke Zarathustra
  - Marx The German Ideology
  - Freud Civilization and its Discontents
  - Sartre Being and Nothingness

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours

Class Size: 1-6

### **Major: Introduction to Latin**

Prerequisites: None. This is a course for beginners.

Broad Aims: This course aims to introduce students to Latin, the language spoken and written in ancient Rome. We will see how the Romans expressed themselves and look at some inscriptions, graffiti and famous quotes as well as study the basic features of the language.

Detailed Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able

- to translate Latin texts (simplified from the original versions),
- to read original Latin inscriptions and graffiti and translate some of them,

- to use some famous Latin quotes in appropriate contexts
- to understand the basic concepts of Latin grammar
- to understand many words in English that are Latin or have a Latin root.

Summary of Syllabus: Latin Language: Cases and genders of nouns and adjectives; persons, voices, moods and tenses of verbs; adverbs; pronouns; clauses and sentences; vocabulary; similarities between Latin and English word-roots.

Inscriptions and graffiti: Scripts and letter shapes, common abbreviations used in inscriptions, archaeological context of inscriptions and graffiti (location, date, etc.).

Quotes: Original content and context of some famous quotes and how they are used today.

No. of hours tuition: 18 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Minor: Classical Mythology

Prerequisites: None. All texts will be read in English.

Broad Aims: Greek and Roman myths still fascinate us today. In this course we will be reading through some major Greek and Roman myths (such as the Hercules, The Trojan War, Theseus, Romulus, Aeneas) and will be asking questions like 'where did the myths come from?', 'how do myths relate to religious rituals?', 'did the Greeks and Romans believe in their myths?', 'do we still have myths today?'.

Detailed Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able:

- to explain the major Greek and Roman myths in content and significance,
- to analyse a myth from different critical approaches,
- to understand the social and cultural potential of myths then and now.

Summary of Syllabus: Myths:

The gods and the origin of the world, Hercules, the Trojan War, Odysseus, Theseus, Oedipus, Romulus, Aeneas.

Approaches to Myth:

Myth and literature, myth and ritual, myth and the soul, myth and politics, myth allegorised and rationalised, reception of myths in modern literature and art.

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Major or Minor: Critical Thinking – The Art of Reasoning

Prerequisites:	None
Broad Aims:	Critical thinking will help you succeed no matter what subject you hope to study at university. This course will improve your ability to conduct debates in class, evaluate others' arguments, and create your own persuasive arguments.
Detailed Objectives:	This course will enable you to identify, evaluate, and construct arguments in spoken and written forms, recognise false reasoning and use language to express and influence an argument. After this course you should be able to recognise biases and ambiguous language, base judgments on evidence, and approach topics and problems from various angles.
Summary of Syllabus:	Over the course of the fortnight we will examine five topics: what is an argument? Inductive and deductive reasoning, supportive sources, language use, and awareness of bias. The coursework will focus on defining statements, premises and conclusions, and understanding ambiguous and vague language.
No. of hours tuition:	18 hours as Major Option; 9 hours as Minor Option
Class Size:	1-6

## Languages

### Major: French Language & Culture - Intermediate Level

Prerequisites:	Your knowledge of French need not be formal, it could be from time spent in French speaking countries, regular contact with French people, or other sources. You should be able to understand the gist of what native speakers say and be able to hold a basic conversation in French in everyday situations such as talking about yourself, your family and where you are from, asking for directions.
Broad Aims:	The course aims to build on existing knowledge, expanding to the areas of culture, and contemporary French life and enabling language skills that have been gained in an academic environment to be put to use in real communication and dialog with native French speakers.
Detailed Objectives:	The course revises and consolidates the knowledge of French you already have and teaches more advanced language in the context of French-speaking societies and French culture. The course will cover several grammatical concepts such as the use of the subjunctive, pronouns, and the past historic. The course uses a number of themes such as current affairs, environment, society, and media, to enable the students to actively debate and express their opinions in French. The course also includes a visit to the Ashmolean museum,



to look at French paintings, a visit to the French library (la maison française), which is a part of the Oxford University. At the end of the course, we will have a meal in a French restaurant in Oxford.

Key skills to be developed include:

1. Ability to read and discuss a culturally authentic text, interpreting humour, irony, simile, and metaphor.
2. Ability to create original texts in the target language using appropriate vocabulary and grammar such as poetry and research paper.
3. Acquisition of cultural information in such areas as history, art, and politics in order to understand the development of the target culture.
4. Ability to express original thought through oral presentations and discussions.
5. Ability to conjugate and understand verbs in the following tenses: imperfect and preterit, subjunctive, future, conditional, past historic.
6. Demonstrate the ability to apply vocabulary, grammar, and cultural knowledge to practical life.

**Summary of Syllabus:** You will develop confidence in the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course offers insights into many aspects of everyday life in modern France, so you should also gain a better understanding of issues that concern French people. You will have chance to explore, understand and debate current issues. Using material from 'le monde', 'le point' and 'l'express'. Also, you will have chance to analyse literature with extracts from French documents. The course also teaches good study skills and language-learning strategies.

**No. of hours tuition:** 18 hours

**Class Size:** 1-6

## **Minor: French Language & Culture - Beginners**

**Prerequisites:** No prior knowledge of French is required. Whether you're a complete beginner or have done basic French before, you will be fine.

**Broad Aims:** The focus will be on self-expression and attaining an acceptable degree of proficiency in communication. A greater cultural understanding will allow students to fully participate in the global community.

**Detailed Objectives:** In this course students will increase their communicative competencies in the four basic language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The course covers topics such as personal relationships, leisure, and home life. Also, the course teaches grammar in a fun way, through the use of poetry. This will be interpreted using mime and role play. The structure of the language will be explored by playing games. Students will develop basic vocabulary and set phrases. The course also includes a visit to the French boulangerie in

Oxford, there students will have a chance to order croissants and a drink. The course will enable students to develop the following:

1. Ability to conjugate verbs in past tense frame.
2. Acquisition of more complicated grammatical structures specific to the target language. For example: pronouns, reflexive verbs, and adjectives.
3. Ability to use acquired vocabulary and knowledge of grammatical principles in order to express original thoughts, both oral and written.
4. Acquisition of increased reading comprehension, writing, speaking and listening skills.
5. Acquisition of cultural information in such areas as famous individuals of the target language, traditions, and cultural comparisons.

Summary of Syllabus:

Various everyday vocabulary and grammar work, including familiarisation with the use of verbs.

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Major: Spanish - Beginners

Prerequisites: None

Broad Aims: This course aims to give an introduction not only to Spanish language but also to Spanish culture. As such, students will have their learning of basic vocabulary, grammar and verb structures supplemented by music and film from the Hispanic world.

Detailed Objectives:

- 1) To give a basic knowledge of Spanish grammatical structure and vocabulary.
- 2) To provide students with key Spanish which will prove highly useful when visiting Spanish speaking-countries.
- 3) To incorporate an understanding of Hispanic culture into all aspects of the learning process.

Summary of Syllabus:

- A general overview of Spanish grammar
- A basic introduction to the present, past and future Spanish tenses
- General vocabulary about oneself, family, travel and daily routine
- An introduction to themes in Hispanic culture
- An introduction to Spanish film and music

No. of hours tuition: 18 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Minor: Spanish - Intermediate

Prerequisites: At least a basic knowledge of Spanish grammar, a variety of tenses and vocabulary.

Broad Aims: Already in possession of at least a basic knowledge of the Spanish language, this course aims to advance students understanding of both Spanish language and Spanish culture. This will be achieved by exploring a wide variety of tenses and more complex grammatical structures, with literature, film and music as core elements of teaching.

Detailed Objectives: 1) To give a more advanced knowledge of Spanish grammatical structure and vocabulary.  
2) To provide students with key Spanish which will prove highly useful when visiting Spanish speaking-countries.  
3) To incorporate an understanding of Hispanic culture into all aspects of the learning process.

Summary of Syllabus:

- Advanced studies of grammatical structures.
- An overview of all the major Spanish tenses - present, imperfect, perfect, preterite, future, conditional, gerund.
- Advanced vocabulary relating to topical issues.
- Introduction to a variety of Hispanic literature, film and music.

No. of hours tuition: 9 hours

Class Size: 1-6

## Electives

### Elective: Public Speaking & Debate

Oxford has a long tradition of debate - many UK and US politicians learnt their public speaking skills in the Oxford Union. Students will gain confidence and competence in constructing, rebutting and presenting arguments. Based on a proposition that the students decide themselves, a debate is conducted in front of all the students, and a vote taken, to decide the winning team.

### Elective: Profile Your Personality

On this journey of self-discovery, students will take numerous quizzes and tests to uncover different aspects of their personality. These results will be explored further to help students identify their strengths and to learn how to overcome their weaknesses. In addition to their own self-awareness, students

will gain an appreciation of other people's personalities, and how they can best work alongside them.

### **Elective: Film, TV & Theatre Reviewing**

This elective equips the students with the skills to analyse a variety of texts from the genres of film, television and theatre as well as allowing them to develop their own critical perception of these genres. Students will be able to develop their own appreciation of popular work in new and dynamic ways.

### **Elective: Creative Writing**

The skills of writing prose, poetry and journalism are developed as students create content for the Oxford Summer Academy Magazine. This will be distributed to all students at the course end, as well as published.

### **Elective: Photography**

The beautiful architecture, cityscapes and landscapes of Oxford will be used in this elective. Each afternoon, students visit a different Oxford location and build a portfolio of work. At the end of the course, an exhibition of students' work is mounted. Images also contribute to the Academy Magazine.

### **Elective: Sport**

This will get students taking part in a variety of different sports across the fortnight. Examples of the sports offered include basketball, athletics, badminton and volleyball.



OXFORD SUMMER ACADEMY

1 London Road

Oxford OX4 1BD

United Kingdom

[info@oxfordsummer.com](mailto:info@oxfordsummer.com)

[www.oxfordsummer.com](http://www.oxfordsummer.com)

Oxford Summer Academy is registered in England and Wales, Company No. 07139537