THE OXFORD INSTITUTE

Course Outline
Oxford Summer Program
Oxford-London Summer Program
2026

Our teaching Philosophy

"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning."
Brad Henry

At the Oxford Institute Summer Programmes, we focus on nurturing curiosity, imagination, and confidence. Students participate in daily tutorials (groups of 1–4) led by Oxford scholars. Our tutorial methodology is central to the learning experience: it provides personalised attention, encourages active discussion, critical thinking, and independent enquiry, and ensures that each session remains engaging and enjoyable. Tutorials are consistently cited as the most valued part of our programme.

Students select one major and one minor subject from our course offerings. All outlines and reading lists are indicative; tutorials are tailored to each student's interests, goals, and learning level, and the content continuously adapts to match individual ambitions and abilities.

Readings are provided during tutorials, as set textbooks are not prescribed. For more information about our adaptable Oxford methodology, please contact us.

Subjects List

Arts and Creativity

English as a Foreign Language
English Literature
Creative Writing
Classics
Drawing & Fine Arts
Music
Photography
Drama

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

Mathematics
Physics
Computer Science & IT
Medicine & Human Biology
Engineering Concepts
Chemistry
Biology
Statistics & Data Analysis
Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Environmental Science

Humanities and Social Sciences

World History
Economics
International Relations
Law & Society
Politics
Psychology
Sociology
Philosophy
Theology & Religion
Geography

Leadership and Business

Business Studies

Entrepreneurship

Debate & Public Speaking

English as a Foreign Language

Introduction

The English as a Foreign Language course develops confidence and fluency in English within an engaging academic environment. It strengthens essential skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, enabling learners to communicate effectively in both academic and everyday contexts. Students explore the structure, history, and usage of modern English, gaining practical tools to understand and express ideas with clarity and accuracy.

Course Focus

The programme builds a strong foundation in phonetics, grammar, and vocabulary, helping students construct clear and coherent sentences. Reading sessions feature extracts from literature and media, supported by comprehension exercises to develop interpretation skills. Writing tasks guide students in producing structured, well-organised, and engaging texts ranging from creative work to analytical essays.

Spoken English is central to the course. Through discussions, debates, and presentations, students enhance pronunciation, fluency, and public speaking skills, while listening activities improve comprehension and confidence in real-world communication.

Advanced Topics

Advanced learners explore the nature of speech and conversational analysis, the use of persuasive language and rhetoric, and the techniques of public speaking and debating. They also focus on advanced essay and report writing, alongside the development of academic reading and writing skills suitable for higher-level study.

Learning Approach

Each participant receives individualised guidance to ensure consistent progress according to their proficiency level. The course offers a supportive and stimulating environment that encourages linguistic growth and cultural awareness.

Core Texts

- Stephen Bailey (2006): *Academic Writing* (Routledge)
- Alice Oshima & Ann Hogue (2007): *Writing Academic English* (Pearson Longman)
- Michael McCarthy & Felicity O'Dell (2008): *Academic Vocabulary in Use* (Cambridge University Press)

English Literature

Introduction

The *English Literature* course offers an in-depth exploration of English literary traditions from Shakespeare to the modern era. Students engage with seminal texts, cultivating a nuanced appreciation of language, style, and cultural context. The programme emphasises analytical reading, critical discussion, and clear, articulate expression of ideas, fostering both intellectual curiosity and a refined understanding of literature.

Course Focus

Through the study of authors such as Shakespeare, Jonson, Donne, Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, Hardy, Conrad, Yeats, and Woolf, students examine the development of literary forms, themes, and techniques. Lessons combine close textual analysis with consideration of historical, social, and philosophical contexts, allowing students to discern the enduring relevance of classic works.

Students are encouraged to articulate their interpretations in discussion and writing, producing thoughtful analyses that demonstrate both clarity of argument and sensitivity to literary style.

Advanced Topics

For advanced learners, the course offers further engagement with literary criticism and theory, including the study of Victorian and Modernist literature, Early Modern texts, and the evolution of critical approaches. Students refine their ability to interpret, evaluate, and debate literary works with sophistication and precision.

Learning Approach

The programme balances guided instruction with independent inquiry, providing individualised support to ensure that every student can engage with texts at an appropriate level of challenge. Through discussion, analysis, and writing, students develop confidence in expressing complex ideas with clarity and elegance.

Core Texts

- *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess
- *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

Creative Writing

Introduction:

Creative Writing invites students to explore the power of language as a tool for imagination, expression, and storytelling. This course introduces students to the techniques and processes that writers use to craft fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Through reading, writing, and constructive feedback, students will develop their unique voices and learn to communicate ideas with clarity and emotional impact. Guided by experienced tutors, students will write in a stimulating literary environment, inspired by Oxford's rich artistic and academic heritage. By the end of the course, each student will have produced a polished piece of original writing and gained the confidence to continue developing their craft.

Key Concepts:

Students will begin by exploring the foundations of good writing; observation, language, structure, and imagination. They will experiment with different forms of creative writing, including short stories, poetry, memoir, and dramatic dialogue, while learning essential skills such as character development, setting, perspective, and narrative voice. The course emphasizes the importance of editing and rewriting, helping students refine their work through peer discussion and tutor feedback. As sessions progress, students will analyze excerpts from classical and contemporary authors to understand literary techniques such as imagery, tone, and rhythm. In the advanced programme, students will focus on building coherence and emotional depth in their writing, experimenting with symbolism and theme, and crafting works suitable for publication or performance. By the end of the course, students will have developed the discipline, creativity, and confidence to express their ideas with originality and style

Core textbooks:

- Everyone's an Author by Andrea Lunsford
- Four Geners in Brief by David Starkey
- On Writing (Stephen King)
- Bird by Bird (Anne Lamott)
- Letters to a Young Poet (Rainer Maria Rilke)
- The Creative Writing Coursebook (Bell & Magrs)

Classics

Introduction

The *Classics* course explores the languages, culture, history, and intellectual achievements of ancient Greece and Rome. This interdisciplinary programme combines the study of literature, history, philosophy, and archaeology, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the civilisations that shaped the Western world. Students engage with texts, ideas, and artefacts, developing skills in critical analysis, interpretation, and scholarly enquiry.

Course Focus

Students examine a broad range of topics including Greek and Roman literature (epic, drama, historical writing), philosophy, and the history and archaeology of the Mediterranean. The programme also explores religion, sexuality, and gender in the ancient world, Latin philosophy, and the reception of classical literature in later periods. Art and material culture, including Greek art of the 5th century BC and Roman art under the Empire (AD 14–337), are also studied to provide a rich contextual understanding of classical life.

Advanced Topics

Advanced learners further explore the foundations of Western thought, including early Greek philosophy, logic, and moral philosophy. Key classical authors studied include Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Thucydides, Tacitus, and others, with analysis extending to their influence on subsequent intellectual and literary traditions.

Learning Approach

The course is designed to foster intellectual curiosity, analytical skills, and independent thought. Tutorials and discussions encourage close reading of texts, critical debate, and reflection on historical and philosophical contexts. Each student receives individualised guidance, ensuring engagement with material at an appropriate depth and pace.

Core Texts

- **Plato** – *Meno* and *Euthyphro* (Penguin Classics)
- **Aristotle** – *Physics* (Oxford University Press)
- **Thucydides** – *History of the Peloponnesian War* (Oxford World's Classics)
- **Cicero** – *Catiline Orations* (Oxford Classical Texts / Penguin Classics)

Drawing and Fine Arts

Introduction

The *Fine Arts* course introduces students to the fundamental principles and practices of drawing and visual art. It aims to enhance existing skills while providing a solid theoretical understanding of artistic techniques, composition, and visual expression. The programme fosters creativity, observation, and technical precision in a structured yet inspiring environment.

Course Focus

Students develop perceptual skills essential to image-making and explore the formal elements of art, including line, space, scale, texture, and composition. Lessons combine practical exercises with discussion of artistic principles, enabling students to understand the theory behind their practice and apply it effectively in their work.

Advanced Topics

Advanced students refine and expand their technical abilities through mastery of line drawing, hatching, cross-hatching, random hatching, scribbling, stippling, and blending. Emphasis is placed on developing control, precision, and expressive versatility in both observational and imaginative drawing.

Learning Approach

The course balances hands-on practice with critical reflection, encouraging students to observe carefully, experiment confidently, and articulate their artistic choices. Individual guidance ensures that students progress at a pace suited to their ability, with tutorials tailored to their specific interests and goals.

Core Texts

- Ryder, Anthony. *The Artist's Complete Guide to Figure Drawing: A Contemporary Perspective on the Classical Tradition* (Watson-Guptill, 1996)
- De Reyna, Rudy. *How to Draw What You See* (Watson-Guptill, 1999)

Music

Introduction:

This course aims to develop understanding of the music through notated scores and for critiquing that approach to better analyse the way music works.

Basic concepts:

Students spend the first two weeks understanding music and its relationship to society and culture. They also learn about the main historical developments of Western music from the medieval period to the present.

Additional topics for the Advanced Programme:

1) Techniques of Tonal Music - Introduction to the Western tonal tradition; through arrangement, acquisition of basic harmonic skills at the keyboard, aural work, and writing music.

2) Music Analysis- Introduction to what makes music work through hands-on familiarity with a range of styles.

Core textbooks:

- Nicholas Cook: A Guide to Musical Analysis (Oxford, 1994)
- R. O. Morris and Howard Ferguson: Preparatory Exercises in Score Reading (Oxford: OUP, 1931)

Photography

Introduction:

Students will be encouraged to use Oxford city as their playground to stimulate themselves visually capturing nature and people while learning the essentials of photography. Understand photography's role in culture and journalism through both practice and critique.

Core textbooks:

- Read this if You Want to Take Good Photographs by Henry Carroll
- Complete Digital Photography by Ben Long
- On Photography (Susan Sontag)
- Photography: A Very Short Introduction (Steve Edwards)
- The Photographer's Eye (John Szarkowski)
- Humans of New York (Brandon Stanton)

Drama

Introduction:

Drama is a dynamic course designed to introduce students to the art of storytelling through theatre, movement, and expression. The course encourages students to explore performance as both a creative process and a means of communication, helping them develop confidence, collaboration, and critical reflection. By studying key dramatic techniques, styles, and traditions, students will gain insight into how performance can reflect culture, convey emotion, and influence audiences. Through workshops, script work, and live presentations, students will not only learn about theatre but experience it as active participants.

Basic Concepts:

Students will begin by exploring the fundamentals of drama, including improvisation, character development, and voice and movement techniques. The course will introduce the basic elements of performance such as script interpretation, staging, and the relationship between actor and audience. Students will study a range of dramatic forms, from classical theatre to modern realism, and consider how social and cultural contexts shape performance. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on teamwork, creativity, and communication, helping students gain the confidence to express themselves both on and off the stage

Core Texts:

Stanislavski, Konstantin. An Actor Prepares. (Bloomsbury, 2013)

Brook, Peter. The Empty Space. (Penguin, 2008)

Brecht, Bertolt. Brecht on Theatre: The Development of an Aesthetic. (Methuen Drama, 2014)

Artaud, Antonin. The Theatre and Its Double. (Grove Press, 1994)

Mathematics

Introduction:

Mathematics includes the study of topics encompassing quantity, structure, space, change and other properties.

Basic Concepts:

Topics include Algebra, Analysis, Probability and Statistics, Geometry and Dynamics, Multivariate calculus and mathematical models.

Additional topics to be explored:

Complex analysis, Metric spaces, Differential equations, Number theory; Analysis; Applied analysis; Geometry; Topology; Fluid dynamics; Probability; Statistics; Numerical analysis; Discrete mathematics; Special relativity; Quantum theory.

Core textbooks:

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- Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction by Timothy Gowers (Oxford Paperbacks, 2002).
- Concepts of Modern Mathematics by Ian Stewart (Penguin 1975).
- Calculus Gems by G. F. Simmons (McGraw Hill).
- The Mathematical Experience by P.J. Davis and R. Hersch (Birkhauser 1997).

Physics

Introduction:

The physics module is designed to comprehensively introduce the fundamental ideas of physics and provide the necessary theoretical background, tools and methods to rigorously approach scientific problems. This course will show the relevance of physics to the understanding of the world around us and provide students with solid foundations necessary to succeed at undergraduate level.

Basic Module includes:

Introduction to Physics and Mathematical
Kinematics, Newtons Laws, Conservation Principles and Rotational Dynamics
Simple Harmonic Motion, Introduction to Waves, Mechanical Waves and Wave Optics

Advanced Module includes:

Special Theory of Relativity and Quantum and Atomic Physics
Molecular Physics, Solid State Physics and Nuclear Physics
Introduction to Electricity and Magnetism

Core Textbooks:

- Concepts of Modern Physics, by Arthur Beiser (McGraw Hill)
- Problems of Physics by A. J. Legget (Oxford)
- Six Easy Pieces (Richard Feynman)
- A Brief History of Time (Stephen Hawking)
- Physics: A Very Short Introduction (Sidney Perkowitz)
- The Feynman Lectures on Physics (Richard Feynman)

Computer Science & IT

Introduction:

Information technology (IT) involves the use of computers and telecommunications equipment to store, retrieve, transmit and manipulate data, often in the context of a business or other enterprise. This course aims to deepen students' understanding of how Information Technology works and how it can be used in organisations. Learn coding, algorithms, and computational logic, while debating digital society and cybersecurity.

Basic Module includes:

Introduction to electronic devices, hardware, software, networking, data communication, data storage and the internet. Students will also be given a basic understanding of coding languages such as C++ and Python.

Advanced Module includes:

Explores the following topics:
Trends in Information Technology
Business Information Systems
IT Industry

Reading List:

- Illustrated Information Technology Dictionary, by Alan Whitcomb (Nelson Thornes Ltd, 1992)
- Computer Information Systems, by Steven C. Lawlor (Holt Rinehart & Winston, 1994)
- Careers in Information Technology, by Melanie Ann Apel (Rosen Pub Group, 2000)
- Code: The Hidden Language... (Charles Petzold)
- Hello World (Hannah Fry)
- Algorithms to Live By (Christian & Griffiths)
- Blown to Bits (Abelson, Ledeen & Lewis)

Medicine & Human Biology

Introduction:

Medicine is a branch of science that deals with the practice of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. It involves a variety of health care practices devised to maintain and restore health by the prevention and treatment of illness in human beings. Study the human body, disease, and medical breakthroughs; tutorials balance scientific content with ethical and societal questions.

Basic Module includes:

The course will provide introduction to the fundamental aspects of the structure and function of the healthy body, and to the basic mechanisms underlying disease. It will also touch upon the principles of medical sociology and of psychology for medicine.

Advanced Module includes:

Further topics to be explored include the following:
Organisation of the body
Physiology
Pharmacology
Biochemistry
Medical genetics

Reading List:

- Black, J., Boyd, C.A.R. and Noble, D. (editors). The Logic of Life. Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Noble. N. The Music of Life: Biology beyond the Genome. Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Dawkins, R. (editor). The Oxford Book of Modern Science Writing. Oxford University Press, 2009.
- The Selfish Gene (Richard Dawkins)
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Rebecca Skloot)
- Your Inner Fish (Neil Shubin)
- The Double Helix (James Watson)

Engineering

Introduction:

Engineering aims to conceive, model and scale an appropriate solution to a problem or objective and involves the application of scientific, economic, social, and practical knowledge in order to design, build, and maintain structures, machines, devices, systems, materials and processes. Engineering is a very vast field and this course aims to provide students an introduction to a number of sub-fields within Engineering in order to better equip them to take it up as a career and to enable them to make informed choice about the sub-field they would like to specialise in.

Basic Module includes:

Aspects of the mathematical and physical foundations of engineering such as structures, fluid mechanics, material properties and digital systems will be discussed.

Advanced Module includes:

Following areas within Engineering will be further explored:
Structural and mechanical engineering
Electrical engineering
Computing
An area of your choice

Reading List:

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- Engineering: A beginners Guide, by Natasha McCarthy (One World, 2009)
- How things work-The physics of everyday life, by Louis A. Bloomfield (John Wiley & Sons, 2009)
- Why Buildings Stand Up: The Strength of Architecture from the Pyramids to the Skyscraper, by Mario Salvadori (W.W. Norton & Company, 2002)

Chemistry

Introduction:

In this unit students are introduced to the basic principles of the subject and are then expected to explore the way they apply in particular circumstances and so that students can then use them to solve problems, both practical and theoretical. The three strands of the subject, physical, inorganic and organic chemistry are developed together in an integrated way with the emphasis on the unifying concepts.

Basic Module includes:

Atoms, Ions and Molecules
Patterns in the Periodic Table
Enthalpy Change and Energy
Rates of Reaction and Equilibria

Advanced Module includes:

Redox and Electrochemistry
Introduction to Organic Chemistry (Functional Groups, Hydrocarbons and Reaction Mechanisms)
Transition Metals

Reading List:

Physical Chemistry, P W Atkins, Oxford University Press (8th edn.) 2006, [7th edn. 2001]
Organic Chemistry, Clayden, Greeves, Warren and Wothers, OUP.

Medicine & Human Biology

Introduction:

This unit provides students with essential knowledge of key biological concepts, fosters an appreciation of contemporary issues, and develops an understanding of scientific methods. The course covers seven principal topics, ranging from cellular structure to metabolism and photosynthesis, illustrated using examples from mammals, flowering plants, and microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses.

Basic Module includes:

1) Molecules and Cells
2) Exchange and Transport
3) Energy and the Environment
4) Metabolism, Respiration and Photosynthesis

Advanced Module includes:

5) Advanced Molecular Biophysics
6) Regulation and Control
7) Reproduction and Genetics

Reading List:

Campbell Biology (9th Edition) by Reece, Urry and Cain et al.

Biochemistry (4th Edition) by Lubert Stryer.

Statistics & Data Analysis

Introduction

Statistics involves the study of the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data. Statistics has gained importance as a distinct branch of mathematical science due to its empirical roots and its focus on applications.

Basic Module includes

The course introduces the students to statistics and follows the modern Bayesian approach that advocates decisions made on the basis of information developed from a formal combination of current and earlier data. Topics include summarising and displaying data, designing experiments, probability, inferences from proportions and normal populations, sampling and regression analysis.

Advanced Module includes:

A number of concepts are further explored, such as descriptive statistics, discrete and continuous distributions, Bayesian theorem, random variables, estimation and confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, and simple linear regression.

Reading List:

- Casella, G. & Berger, R. L., *Statistical Inference* (Cengage, latest edition)
- Rice, J. A., *Mathematical Statistics and Data Analysis* (Cengage, latest edition)
- Gelman, A., Carlin, J. B., Stern, H. S., & Rubin, D. B., *Bayesian Data Analysis* (CRC Press, latest edition)

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we live, work, and think. This course introduces students to the fundamental ideas behind intelligent systems — how machines learn, reason, and make decisions. Students will explore both the scientific principles and the ethical questions surrounding AI, gaining insight into how computer algorithms can mimic human thought and creativity. Through lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities, the course encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and an awareness of AI's growing impact on society and the future of work

Basic Concepts

Students will begin by learning what AI is and how it differs from traditional computing. The course introduces core concepts such as algorithms, machine learning, neural networks, and data processing. Students will explore the history and evolution of AI, from early rule-based systems to today's advanced learning models. Key themes include supervised and unsupervised learning, natural language processing, and computer vision. The course also examines the role of data in AI, how machines learn from examples, the importance of dataset quality, and the potential for bias in algorithmic systems

Reading List

- Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans (Melanie Mitchell)
- Life 3.0 (Max Tegmark)
- Superintelligence (Nick Bostrom)
- Russell, Stuart & Norvig, Peter. Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach. (Pearson, 2020)
- Hello World (Hannah Fry)

Environmental Science

Introduction

Environmental Science explores the complex interactions between humans and the natural world. This course introduces students to the scientific principles that govern ecosystems, climate systems, and resource use, while encouraging them to think critically about humanity's impact on the environment. Students will examine the challenges of sustainability, biodiversity loss, and climate change through a scientific and social lens. By the end of the course, students will not only understand key environmental processes but also develop a sense of responsibility and curiosity about how science can help create a more sustainable future

Basic Concepts

Students will begin by studying the Earth's major systems, the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere, and how these systems interact to support life. The course will introduce fundamental topics such as ecosystems and energy flow, population ecology, natural resource management, and the carbon and nitrogen cycles. Students will explore the scientific basis of environmental problems, including deforestation, air and water pollution, and waste management. They will also consider how human activities such as industrialization, agriculture, and urbanization contribute to environmental change, and discuss strategies to reduce ecological footprints and promote sustainability.

Reading List

- The Sixth Extinction (Elizabeth Kolbert)
- Silent Spring (Rachel Carson)
- There Is No Planet B (Mike Berners-Lee)
- How Bad Are Bananas? (Mike Berners-Lee)

World History

Introduction

The History course explores the analysis and interpretation of the human past, examining continuity and change over time. Students engage with a wide variety of evidence — including written documents, oral accounts, buildings, artefacts, photographs, and paintings — to study, interpret, and reinterpret historical events. The programme provides a foundation in major themes and approaches within global history.

Course Focus

Students are introduced to key periods and topics, including Modern European History (1789–1939), the Colonial History of Southeast Asia (1870–1980), Themes in International History (1945–1991), the American Civil War, and British Colonial History in India and the Caribbean. The course develops analytical skills, critical thinking, and the ability to construct coherent historical arguments.

Advanced Topics

Advanced learners explore broader historical transformations and in-depth case studies, including:

General History: The Transformation of the Ancient World (370–900), Medieval Christendom and its Neighbours (1000–1300), Renaissance, Recovery and Reform (1400–1650), and Society, Nation, and Empire (1815–1914). History of the USA: Britain's North American Colonies from Settlement to Independence (1600–1812), the United States from 1776 to 1877, and the History of the United States since 1863.

Learning Approach

The course encourages critical analysis, discussion, and independent research, allowing students to engage with historical sources and debates. Tutorials and exercises are tailored to individual interests and abilities, fostering a deep understanding of historical processes and contexts.

Core Texts

1. Farmer, A., & Saunders, V. (2002). *An Introduction to American History 1860–1990*, 1st Edition. Hodder & Stoughton.
2. Wallace, P. G. (2012). *The Long European Reformation: Religion, Political Conflict, and the Search for Conformity, 1350–1750*, 2nd Edition. Palgrave Macmillan.
3. Church, P. (2009). *A Short History of Southeast Asia*, 5th Edition. John Wiley & Sons.

Economics

Introduction:

Economics is that branch of social sciences which analyses the mechanisms of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The emergence of globalisation has necessitated the need for a better understanding of the economic linkages between nations: an issue which will be discussed in depth in this course.

Basic concepts:

Market Structures: Monopoly, Oligopoly, Monopolistic Competition and Perfect Competition. Market Failure: Externalities. Growth and Business Cycles. Instruments of trade policy: tariffs, quotas, subsidies, voluntary export restraint (VER). Production function. Diminishing Marginal Returns. Price Discrimination. Consumer Surplus. Production Possibility Frontier. Elasticity of Demand and Supply. Free Rider Problem. Moral Hazard and Incentives.

Additional topics to be covered:

Growth and Development: The meaning of economic growth. Models of economic growth, especially exogenous and endogenous growth models. The relationship between trade and growth. Reasons for why some countries are less affluent than others. In particular, the role of geography, history, and institutions in shaping long-run development outcomes.

Trade and Protectionism: The meaning of protectionism and its key instruments. Historical background of protectionism and import substituting industrialization. The economic rationale for protectionism. Political economy of trade policy. WTO evolution and debates. Globalisation.

Regionalism and trade: Definition of regionalism. The trends and implications of regionalism. The advantages and disadvantages of regionalism. Is regionalism a threat to multilateral trade?

Core textbooks:

1) Lipsey, R.G. and Chrystal, K.A. (2004): Economics (10th ed); ch.22 on economic growth
2) Krugman, P.R. and Obstfeldt, M. (2008):International Economics -Theory and Policy (8th ed)
3) Caves, R.E, Frankel, J.A. and Jones, R.W. (2002): World Trade and Payments: An Introduction, (9th ed); ch.14
4) Todaro, M.P. and Smith, S.C. (2006): Economic Development (9th ed.); ch. 13 (including the case study on S. Korea)

International Relations

Introduction:

International Relations explores the relationships between countries, including the roles of states and other international organisations such as the inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multinational corporations (MNCs).

Basic concepts:

The course introduces students to the structure of international society and the history of the World since 1890 and emergence of nation states. It also includes study of the state-centric international relations, power and state craft, the balance of power and war, international organisations, the UNsystem, regional organisations, global governance, globalisation and north-south relations.

Additional topics for the Advanced Programme:

Several topics mentioned above will be further explored including globalisation, global governance, global social movements, new agenda of international relations, regionalism and foreign policy analysis. There shall be a choice of countries/regions to study such as the USA, China, Russia, and the European Union etc.

Recommended Reading

- Baylis, J., Smith, S., & Owens, P., *The Globalization of World Politics*, 9th Edition (Oxford University Press)
- Bull, H., *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*, 4th Edition (Macmillan)
- Keohane, R. O., *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton University Press)
- Nye, J. S., *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History*, 8th Edition (Pearson)
- Waltz, K., *Theory of International Politics* (McGraw-Hill)

Law & Society

Introduction:

Law is the set of rules that guides the conduct of individuals in a society and is enforceable through public agencies. It is universally accepted as being one of the key pillars of the nation state. It provides a framework for much of the activities that individuals undertake in their everyday lives. Activities like filing a tax return, asking the state to widen the road in your street, avoiding a traffic ticket are all scenarios that involve the "Law".
This course is designed to provide students with answers to questions like: (i) What is Law?; What are its origins?; (iii) What are its different branches?; and How is the law enforced?

Basic concepts:

An understanding of the nature of law and its origins. The historical development of legal institutions. Knowledge of legal rules and their application to individuals and corporations. Organizing and presenting arguments clearly and logically using legal terminology. Comprehending legal concepts and identifying legal processes that are applicable in different contexts.

Additional topics for the Advanced Programme:
Enforcing the law: Police in law enforcement: stop and search; arrest; search; detention and questioning; procedure at the police station. Dispute settlement mechanisms both formal and informal: the Courts; tribunals; arbitration; conciliation; mediation. Differences in legal proceedings between civil and criminal cases; legal aid and advice and other financial support.
Law related to the workplace: Legal relationships between employers and employees. Laws on discrimination and equal pay. Laws relating to health and safety of employees at work. Termination of employment contracts including fair, unfair and wrongful dismissal.
Family Law: Legal rights of spouses arising from marriage. Childrens legal rights and rules for protection of children.Divorce. Property and finances on divorce. Family property and finances. Domestic abuse. Childrens rights within International Law.

Core textbooks:

1) Geoffrey Rivlin (2009): Understanding the Law. (5th edition). Oxford University Press.
2) Harris-Short & Miles.(2011): Family Law: Text, Cases, and Materials. (2nd edition)
3) Hunt, M (2003):A Level & AS Level Law. (2nd edition). Sweet and Maxwell.
4) Martin, E. & Law, J.(2009):A Dictionary of Law. (7th edition). Oxford University Press.

Politics

Introduction:

Politics is an art or science of influencing people at either civic or individual level and has stemmed from the Greek word “politikos” that means of, for or relating to citizens. This course introduces the students to a range of topics in a field of study that was declared by Aristotle as the mother of all sciences.

Basic concepts:

Key concepts in Political theory, comparative politics, International politics and power and politics will be explored. Seminal readings within Political science and key authors will also be discussed to develop in-depth understanding among students of the evolution of political thought.

Additional topics for the Advanced Programme:

Systems of Governance, theoretical frameworks used to explore the distributions and exercise of power in a society such as Marxist, pluralistic and public choice approaches. Choice of the study of politics in various countries/regions such as the USA, China, Russia, Europe, South Asia etc.

Core textbooks:

- A new handbook of Political Science, Goodin, R & Hans-Dieter, K (eds) (Oxford, 1996)
- Collective Action, Hardin Russell (John Hopkins University, 1982)
- The art of Comparative Politics, Lane, Ruth (Boston, 1997)

Psychology

Introduction:

Understanding the mechanisms that underlie the thoughts, feelings, and behaviours of people will be taught in this module. This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts and core topics within contemporary psychology through a mixed delivery mode.. Students will be taught about different psychologists and case studies.

Basic concepts:

Students will begin by exploring the foundations of psychology, including its major approaches; biological, cognitive, behavioral, and humanistic. They will examine how psychologists use the scientific method to investigate mental processes such as learning, memory, motivation, and emotion. The course introduces the structure and function of the brain, the role of perception and attention, and the relationship between thought and behavior. Students will also learn about developmental and social psychology, exploring how personality, culture, and environment shape who we are. Advanced sessions delve into applied areas such as mental health, psychological disorders, and therapeutic approaches, encouraging students to consider ethical issues and the importance of empathy in psychological research. By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of human behavior and an appreciation for psychology as both a science and a tool for understanding ourselves and others.

Core textbooks:

- Pioneers of Psychology (Raymond E. Fancher and Alexandra Rutherford)
- How to Think Straight About Psychology (Keith E. Stanovich)
- The Psychology Majors Handbook by Tara L. Kuther

Sociology

Introduction:

Sociology is the study of human society, social behavior, and the structures that shape our daily lives. This course introduces students to key sociological theories, concepts, and methods of inquiry. Students will explore how culture, identity, class, gender, race, and institutions influence human behavior and shape societies across the world. The course encourages critical thinking, empathy, and awareness of social issues, preparing students to understand the world around them from a broader perspective.

Basic

Concepts: Students will begin by exploring what sociology is and why it matters, gaining an understanding of core concepts such as society, culture, norms, and socialization. The course will then examine how social structures and institutions—such as the family, education, religion, and the media—shape human interactions and values. Attention will also be given to social inequality and the ways class, gender, and race contribute to different life experiences. Finally, students will explore deviance, crime, and mechanisms of social control, as well as processes of social change and globalization that influence contemporary societies

Additional Topics for the Advanced Programme:

For students enrolled in the two-week advanced programme, the course will expand into the main theoretical perspectives of sociology, including functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. Students will be introduced to basic research methods such as surveys, interviews, and case studies, learning how sociologists gather and interpret data. The course will also explore themes of urbanization, modernization, and global inequality, alongside an examination of social movements and collective behavior. Finally, students will discuss the impact of technology and mass media on society, focusing on how social change continues to shape the modern world

Core Textbooks:

Giddens, A. (2017). Sociology (8th Edition). Polity Press.
Haralambos, M., & Holborn, M. (2013). Sociology: Themes and Perspectives. HarperCollins.
Ferrante, J. (2018). Sociology: A Global Perspective. Cengage Learning.
Sociology: A Very Short Introduction (Steve Bruce)
Outsiders (Howard Becker)

Philosophy

Introduction:

Philosophy is the study of knowledge, reality, morality, and the human mind. This course introduces students to the great thinkers, ideas, and questions that have shaped human thought for over two millennia. Through guided discussions and critical inquiry, students will explore topics such as ethics, logic, free will, and the nature of truth. The course encourages students to think deeply, question assumptions, and construct well-reasoned arguments — skills that extend beyond philosophy into every field of study and everyday life.

Basic Concepts:

Students will begin by exploring the fundamental question, "What is philosophy?" They will learn about its main branches; metaphysics (the study of reality), epistemology (the study of knowledge), ethics (the study of right and wrong), and logic (the study of reasoning). The course introduces key philosophical methods, such as argument analysis, critical thinking, and the Socratic dialogue. Students will engage with ideas from both classical philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, and Descartes, and modern thinkers such as Kant and John Stuart Mill. Topics like happiness, justice, and human nature will be examined through real-life examples, helping students understand how philosophical inquiry relates to contemporary issues

Reading List:

- Nagel, Thomas. What Does It All Mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy. (Oxford University Press, 1987)
- Russell, Bertrand. The Problems of Philosophy. (Oxford University Press, 2012)
- Warburton, Nigel. Philosophy: The Basics. (Routledge, 2018)

Theology and Religion

Introduction:

Theology is a subject that is crucial to the understanding of what it means to be human. It is the study of God and the questions raised by the possibility of God. In order to study theology it is important to have an inquiring mind that is open to new ways of thinking and willing to grapple with complex concepts. It provides training in thinking critically, logically, and with empathy.

Basic concepts:

Science and Religion. Philosophy of Religion. Religious Moral Reasoning. Psychology of Religion. The Sociology of Religion. Knowledge and Reality. Introduction to Ethics. Medieval Philosophy. Latin Philosophy.

Additional topics for the Advanced Programme:

Early Syriac Christianity. Judaism in History and Society. The Classical Period of Islam. Islam in the Modern World. Early Buddhist Doctrine and Practice. Buddhism in History and Society. Brahminism (Hinduism).

Core textbooks:

1) Hayes, J. H. & Holladay, C. R. (1983),Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook.
2) Ford, D. F. (1999), A Very Short Introduction to Theology.
3) McGrath, A.E. (1994),Christian Theology: An Introduction.
4) Neusner, J. & Sonn, T. (1999), Comparing Religions Through Law: Judaism and Islam Lipner, J. J. (1994),Hindus: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices.

Geography

Introduction:

Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It has two branches. One which comes under social sciences (i.e. human geography) and the other that comes under natural sciences (i.e. physical geography). Human geography focuses on cultures, societies and economies, and physical geography is the study of physical landscapes and the environment.

Basic concepts:

Description of physical and human geography. The role of water in landscape development and its management for human welfare purposes. Coastal systems construct and destroy waves, tides, sediment sources and cells. Coastal processes marine erosion, transportation and deposition; land-based sub-aerial weathering, mass movement and runoff. Food supply issues - contrasting agricultural food production systems and managing food supply. Population change demographic transition model, population indicators and social, economic and political implications of population change.

Additional topics for the Advanced Programme:

Processes and Change: Atmospheric processes and climate. Oceans and coasts. Environmental processes and change. Glacial processes. The coastal system. Global climate change patterns and trends.
Human geography: further topics include :Historical Geography of Globalisation. Economic Globalisation and its implications. Geographies of risk and insecurity. Contemporary urban geographies. Society, environment and sustainable development. Understanding cultural geographies. Geopolitics and political geography.

Core textbooks:

1) Redfern, D & Skinner, M (2005): Advanced Geography. (2nd edition). Phillip Allan Updates.
2) Cook, I, Hordern, B, McGahan, H & Ritson, P. (2000): Geography In Focus. (1st edition). Causeway Press.
3) Maclean, K & Thomson, N (2000):Core Higher Geography. Hodder & Stoughton.

Business Studies

Introduction:

Business studies introduces students to a range of business functions to develop a holistic understanding of the business processes and its interaction with the outside world. It will help students to identify specific business activities that they are interested in and would like to pursue in the future.

Basic concepts:

The course introduces students to a range of topics including entrepreneurship, management (Human Resource Management, Operations, Strategy, Innovation), marketing, accounting and finance,information systems, economics and organisational studies.

Core textbooks:

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- A very short, fairly interesting and reasonably cheap introduction to studying organizations
- By Christopher Grey (Sage).
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- The Business Environment by Adrian Palmer and Bob Hartley (McGraw-Hill).

Entrepreneurship

Introduction:

Entrepreneurship is about transforming ideas into impactful ventures that solve real-world problems. This course introduces students to the principles of innovation, leadership, and business strategy, helping them understand how entrepreneurs identify opportunities and turn them into successful enterprises. Through interactive lectures, group projects, and case studies, students will explore the mindset and skills required to create, grow, and sustain a business in today's rapidly changing world. By the end of the course, students will have gained practical insights into creativity, teamwork, and decision-making — essential tools for future innovators and leaders,

Basic Concepts:

Students will begin by exploring what it means to think like an entrepreneur, learning how innovation and risk-taking drive progress in business and society. The course covers the foundations of entrepreneurship, from idea generation and market research to product development and business planning. Students will learn how to analyze consumer needs, develop value propositions, and understand the basics of finance, marketing, and operations. Real-world case studies of successful start-ups and social enterprises will help illustrate key principles and challenges faced by entrepreneurs. In the advanced sessions, students will apply their learning by designing a business concept or social venture, presenting their ideas through a pitch competition that mirrors real-world entrepreneurial settings. The course also examines the ethics of entrepreneurship, sustainable innovation, and the role of technology in shaping modern business. By the end of the programme, students will have developed creativity, confidence, and the collaborative skills necessary to turn ideas into action.

Core textbooks:

Book Bornstein, D. and Davis, S., Social Entrepreneurship
What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 20

Debate & Public Speaking

IThe Debate & Public Speaking course, a core component of the Oxford Summer Programmes and also available as an add-on module, gives students a unique opportunity to enhance their public speaking skills in one-to-one tutorials with some of the top debaters from the Oxford Union, one of the world's most historic debating societies. Delivered in the parliamentary-style debating format, the course allows students to learn from and work with accomplished debaters in a highly personalised setting. For nearly two decades, the Oxford Institute has collaborated with current and former presidents of the Oxford Union, providing expert guidance in both debating and public speaking. The programme develops confidence, clarity, and critical thinking, enabling students to express ideas effectively, respond to arguments with assurance, and engage thoughtfully on a wide range of contemporary issues.