Fine Arts and Medieval Studies Travel Course

Castles: Fact and Fiction

Winter 2023

Co-taught by Joan Coutu (Visual Culture) and Tara Cooper (Fine Arts – Studio), this combination on-campus and travel course will run in Winter 2023 and will include a 9-day trip to England. The theme is the many guises of castles and their environments: medieval castles, modern castles, pop culture castles (horror films, Hogwarts, Beauty & the Beast, castles in video games, sandcastles etc.) What makes castles so appealing and why are they so enduring? Note: Additional costs for the trip to England and local field trips will be incurred. If interested, contact joan.coutu@uwaterloo.ca or tlcooper@uwaterloo.ca. No commitment required until late Sept. 2022. $3195 – for details, see next page.
Why do castles capture our imagination? This course explores the idea of castle in its many guises - in history, in film, in art, in pop culture. The travel portion of the course is a trip to England (February 16-26) where we will stay in a seaside hotel and visit several nearby castles; the other two portions will be on-campus, before and after the trip. The main assessment for the course is to develop creative projects for the Ontario Grade 4 Social Studies curriculum that is about the medieval world, both in Canada and abroad.

Students will receive course credit (0.5) in Fine Arts, Visual Culture, or Medieval Studies.

Course instructors & co-ordinators: Prof. Joan Coutu and Prof. Tara Cooper | Co-ordinator Assistant: Sharon Dahmer

For more details contact Joan Coutu or Sharon Dahmer ASAP

TRIP DETAILS

Location & Date: Southeast England, February 16-26.

Trip cost $3195.00*

Cost includes: flights (Toronto-London Gatwick return), airport-hotel transfers in England, nine nights’ accommodation (double or triple occupancy), all breakfasts, coach and train travel to sites, site entrance fees, all taxes. Cost does not include: lunches, dinners, tuition, souvenirs, shopping.

*This is the maximum possible cost. Final amount to be confirmed in September.

Number of students participating: Maximum 25; minimum 15.

Hotel: We’ll enjoy the English seaside experience by staying in Eastbourne on the south coast. Best Western York House Hotel or equivalent. (Check out the video on the site for aerial views of Eastbourne.)

Day Excursions (included in the cost above): Dover – one of the most famous castles in the world; the medieval village of Rye; the ancient priory (monastery) at Lewes; Bodiam – a perfect castle?; Herstmonceux – a faux castle?; the Royal Pavilion in Brighton – one of England’s strangest buildings; Sissinghurst – England’s most famous garden. (All to be confirmed in Fall 2022).

COVID: UWaterloo COVID protocols will apply (even if the protocols are different in England). We encourage all participants to mitigate exposure.

Payment schedule: 1st Instalment: $1500 due by Friday, September 30, 2022. ($500 of this is a non-refundable deposit.). 2nd and Final Instalment: $1500 (or less if total cost is reduced) by Wednesday, November 23.

Course: All participants must be UW students or UW employees and all participants must take the course associated with the trip (course numbers to follow). There are no pre-requisites for these courses.

Passports & VISAs: Every participant must have a valid passport. If you are not a Canadian citizen, please determine if you need a visa to enter the United Kingdom. CHECK THE EXPIRY DATE ON YOUR PASSPORT NOW: if your passport expires within six months of the return date of the trip (February 26), start the process to renew your passport now.

Medical insurance: All participants must have extended medical insurance. If you are a UW student and have paid full-time fees, you have appropriate medical insurance for this trip, unless you have opted out. Extended medical insurance can also be purchased through our travel agent. Cancellation Insurance (additional cost) is recommended!

Financial assistance: For details and eligibility, please see the International Experience Awards site.