

Cambridge Scholars Program

Fall 2024

The Henry Bellmon Office of
**Scholar Development &
Undergraduate Research**

Hosted at

Magdalene College, University of Cambridge

Each summer, Scholar Development partners with Arts and Sciences Outreach to offer broadly engaging general education courses and unique learning experiences led by exceptional faculty for ambitious, adventurous OSU students in any major.



Holding Difficult Dialogues:
Lessons from the UK

POLS 4020
HONR 3000

3 Credit Hours
August 4-17, 2024
Fall Semester

Instructors:
Dr. Holley Hansen
Dr. Stephen Nemeth

Apply by
Friday, February 16, 2024

Contact
Scholar Development
334 Student Union
405-744-7313
jessica.sullins@okstate.edu
universitycollege.okstate.edu/scholars

2024 | Course Description

In a time of heightened polarization and rising political conflict, it is important that democratic citizens learn to hold difficult conversations about controversial issues. In this class, students will learn about political science research studying the causes of political polarization as well as different solutions - including strategies they can implement in their daily conversations - to help “de-escalate” tensions between groups. They will also learn how the United Kingdom has struggled to navigate its political divisions, both past and present. From the rules and norms governing its debate in the British parliament, the path to peace in Northern Ireland, and ongoing efforts to address the British colonial past, the United Kingdom offers important lessons that can be used to improve political dialogue in America.

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STUDY ABROAD
College of Arts and Sciences



2024 Cambridge Scholars Program Application



STUDY ABROAD
College of Arts and Sciences

Course Description

Democracy has been described by some as a form of “government through conflict;” however, for it to work, citizens need to be willing to compromise and recognize opposing viewpoints. By examining the United Kingdom – a society that has struggled with intense policy divides, ethnic and religious differences, and debates on how to remember an oppressive past – students will gain a better appreciation for what works (and what does not) to encourage healthy political debates in modern democratic societies.

Throughout the course, we will examine both the theoretical work on democratic debate as well as real-world accounts of how conflicting sides can be brought together to discuss and, hopefully, resolve their disputes. We begin by examining why political polarization is increasing in the United States and the possible risks that come with this. We will then explore how the UK has dealt with its political divides, including both successes (building peace in Northern Ireland after thirty years of conflict) and failures (ignoring the repression and violence of colonial rule). We also discuss the 2016 Brexit referendum, which resulted in the United Kingdom leaving the European Union – both why it happened and its major consequences. This will be complemented by a variety of active learning workshops, guest presentations, a visit to Parliament, and discussions with NGOs involved in conflict resolution.

Costs and Scholarships

The actual program fee is \$4,050 however, all students accepted who participate in the course will receive substantial scholarship support (\$1500) bringing the cost down to \$2550. Further, the OSU Office of Study Abroad and Arts and Sciences Outreach have additional scholarships available. The cost includes three OSU credit hours, single room and board (with free breakfast and lunch daily), a formal dinner, guest lecturers, course-related excursions, and travel insurance. Items are subject to change.

The cost does not include airfare and other travel expenses to Cambridge, miscellaneous personal expenses, additional meals, and any costs associated with travel after the course. Scholarship support is made possible by the Lew Wentz Foundation and the Henry Bellmon Office of Scholar Development and Undergraduate Research. All tuition and applicable program fees, along with the scholarship support you receive, will appear on your Bursar account. This course is considered a fall semester course. This course is not eligible for OSU tuition waivers. Note: May 1, 2024 is the deadline to drop this course with no penalty except for your initial deposit. After that date, you will be responsible for all course costs, even though it will not appear on your Bursar account until August.

This is a statement of interest and application form, not an official OSU registration form. Completion and submission of this form will allow you only to be considered for acceptance to the program.

Name:	CWID:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
OSU Email:	Phone:	
Major(s):	GPA:	

To Apply:

1. All students must submit this completed form to Arts and Sciences Outreach (213E Life Sciences East) with an official transcript.
2. Attach to this form:
 - a. Essay (500 words max.) on “The reason for my interest in taking this course in Cambridge, what can I contribute and how I expect to benefit from the experience.”
 - b. Letter of recommendation from an OSU faculty member or advisor supporting your application.
 - c. Optional: Request for Additional Need-Based Funding. If applicable, provide a statement of financial need, including a list of all current scholarships.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I confirm the accuracy of this information and wish to apply for this course.