



Field School in British Archaeology

Director's Contact

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Overview

Over the course of six weeks, students will study both Roman and Medieval Britain and take part in over 60 hours of hands-on excavation providing an introduction to archaeological field work. In addition to the on-going digging of our 12-14th century site on castle grounds, a new site at nearby Pevensey will be added. Digging will commence in the yard of a church dating back to 1206 that sits on the grounds where William the Conqueror landed in 1066. Significant time will be spent visiting some of the greatest archaeological sites in Britain including York, the Roman Baths, and Fishbourne Roman Palace.

Program Schedule 2014

May 9 – June 21

Enrolment / Deadline

20 students. Apply by March 15th, 2014

Courses

CLST 206/3.0 Roman Britain

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to the history and archaeology of Roman Britain, from the invasions of Julius Caesar to the Roman withdrawal in 410 A.D. With the Claudian invasion of 43 A.D. Britain was drawn into the Roman sphere of influence and the Iron Age culture of the Celtic speaking peoples inhabiting the island was forever changed. The British Isles was rapidly transformed through war and subjugation, the development of towns and villas, increased trade and manufacturing and through integration into the Roman Empire.

HIST 332/3.0 Medieval Britain

This course combines history and archaeology in order to better understand the development of the British Isles during a formative period in its history. Covering approximately 1,000 years, from the Fall of the Roman Empire in the early 5th century to the end of the Hundred Years War in the mid-fifteenth century, the course explores the formation and evolution of medieval society and culture. Emphasis is placed upon the role played by various invading groups, such as the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans, as well as the influence of new ideas related to trade, war and religious practice. Evidence acquired from archaeological sources will play a significant role, and in preparation for the site excavation component, a significant proportion of the course will be focused upon rural life in the medieval period.

Teaching Methods

Speakers, group work, numerous field studies, case studies, presentations, seminars, traditional lectures and evaluations of readings.

Participant Profile

Undergraduate student with Level 2 standing

Cost

\$7300 CAD which includes tuition, residence and meals at the Castle, transportation and entrance fees for field studies. Students will need additional funds for personal spending, some meals during field studies, health and travel insurance, and transport to and from the UK.

Examples of Field Studies*

Fishbourne Roman Palace - one of the most important archaeological sites in England. The Roman villa was built in the 1st century AD and discovered by workman in 1961. <http://sussexpast.co.uk/properties-to-discover/fishbourne-roman-palace>

Clifford's Tower in York - stands as a proud symbol of the power of England's medieval kings. Originally built by William the Conqueror to subdue the rebels of the north, it was twice burned to the ground, before being rebuilt by Henry III in the 13th century. www.visityork.org

JORVIK Viking Centre – the site of one of the most famous and astounding discoveries of modern archaeology. Thirty years ago the archaeologists from York Archaeological Trust revealed the houses, workshops and backyards of the Viking-Age city of Jorvik, as it stood 1,000 years ago. www.visityork.org

Roman Baths - Around Britain's only hot spring, the Romans built a magnificent temple and bathing complex that still flows with natural hot water. See the water's source and walk where Romans walked on the ancient stone pavements around the steaming pool. <http://visitbath.co.uk>

Pevensey Castle – in the 4th century, it was one of the last and strongest of the Roman 'Saxon Shore' forts. Today, two-thirds of the towered walls still stand. It was the landing place of William the Conqueror's army in 1066. <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/pevensey-castle/>

*subject to change.