



"I can never understand why Londoners fail to see that they live in the most wonderful city in the world. It is far more beautiful and interesting than Paris, if you ask me, and more lively than anywhere but New York – and even New York can't touch it in lots of important ways. It has more history, finer parks ... better theatres, more numerous orchestras and museums, leafier squares, safer streets and more courteous inhabitants than any other large city in the world."

— BILL BRYSON



Winifred Gill by the Pool at Durbins, 1912
by Roger Fry (1866-1934). Oil on board,
32 x 25 inches, private collection.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HERBERT F. JOHNSON MUSEUM
OF ART, CORNELL UNIVERSITY



MSC 1501
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
540.568.6953 Phone

Office of the HONORS PROGRAM
540.568.8079 Fax
honors@jmu.edu
www.jmu.edu/honorsprog
JMU 2011

JMU Honors Program Seminar Abroad

The Bloomsbury Group

London, England

May 12 – June 2, 2012
(tentative)



JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY



The Amazing Bloomsbury Group

This will be a six-credit Honors Seminar on the Bloomsbury Group. It will require some non-credit preparatory work in the preceding semester and reflective work in the succeeding semester, but will be centered on three weeks in London, May 12 – June 2, 2012 (tentative). The seminar will be open to first- and second-year Track I and Track II honors students. Completion of the seminar will complete the six-credit Honors Program seminar requirement.

The Bloomsbury Group is a celebrated group of intellectuals, artists and public figures who lived in or near London in the early 20th century and who closely interacted with one another. The Bloomsbury district in London was the geographical center of the group's meetings. The Bloomsbury Group included economist John

Maynard Keynes, writers Virginia Woolf, E.M. Forster, and Lytton Strachey, artists Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, and Roger Fry, and critics Clive Bell and Leonard Woolf. Many others had varying degrees of connection to the group.

“London perpetually attracts, stimulates, gives me a play and a story and a poem, without any trouble, save that of moving my legs through the streets ... To walk alone in London is the greatest rest.”

— VIRGINIA WOOLF

Students will reside in a Bloomsbury hotel. Ample free time and opportunities will be provided to explore London and beyond, including a three-day weekend, which, for example, would allow students to travel to Paris via the Channel Tunnel train, bus to Wales or explore the Cotswolds.

Seminar Abroad Program

The experience will begin with approximately biweekly two-hour evening meetings on campus in the spring semester of 2012. Students will use this semester to do readings, watch films, attend guest lectures, and complete assignments to become acquainted with the principal figures of the Bloomsbury Group, the activities of the group, and the group's geographical and historical setting. They will use this period to get to know one another and the instructors and begin a small Bloomsbury-related research project which will be completed in London. They will also be involved in helping to plan the summer itinerary.



In London, the group will become immersed in the Bloomsbury Group experience. The students will meet with the instructors four mornings per week for two hours of classroom work. Afternoons and evenings will feature field trips and events, including day trips to Cambridge University and Charleston, the country home for members of the Bloomsbury Group.

Students will help plan and will participate in a September 2012 symposium and reception centered on the seminar topic. Barry Falk, Ph.D., Honors Program director and professor of economics, and Siân White, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, will be the seminar instructors.

Eligible students can apply to participate in this seminar through JMU's Short-Term Study Abroad application process. That process, including the application deadline, is

described at http://www.jmu.edu/international/abroad/forms_jmu_shortterm.shtml. The application process will open at the start of the fall 2011 semester. The number of students will be limited to approximately 20.

Students who participate in the seminar will be charged for six credits of 2012 summer school tuition and a program fee. The tuition and program fees will cover tuition, housing, meals, cell phone rental, local subway and bus transportation, field trip transportation, event tickets, and more. The fees will not include travel to and from London, passports, personal expenses, and certain books that may be required. Some financial assistance may be available.

- Earn six academic credits
- Complete your honors seminar requirements
- Learn experientially
- Study abroad
- Experience London
- Get acquainted with faculty members outside of the classroom
- No longer be afraid of Virginia Woolf

Please direct any questions to Barry Falk, Ph.D., falkbl@jmu.edu, (540) 568-5535.



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