

**O^xBRIDGE
ACADEMIC**
P R O G R A M S

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August 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

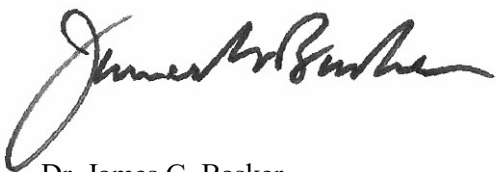
The Oxford Tradition is an intensive month-long academic summer program for students completing 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Under its auspices, over 300 motivated participants from high schools all over the United States, Canada, and multiple foreign countries live and study in Pembroke College, Oxford. This program is now in its 35th year.

Our curriculum is taught by an outstanding faculty of teachers and scholars drawn from Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, the London School of Economics, and other top institutions. In addition to daily classroom activities, such as discussions, experiments, workshops and rehearsals, **Oxford Tradition** students attend talks by eminent guest speakers, enjoy musical and theatrical performances, and explore local museums, galleries, and historical sites. Depending on their Major course, students take a final exam, submit a portfolio, publish written work, or participate in a theatrical production or art exhibition.

Over the course of the summer, students experience over 100 in-class hours, plus countless hours more of extramural learning and cultural achievement. The level of academic performance achieved by the students is truly extraordinary. We are very pleased to observe that many of our former students carry this standard forward in their college careers at some of the best universities in North America and Europe.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the nature of the program, the work students have done on it, or the colleges at which former students are currently enrolled, please do not hesitate to call or email our New York office.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. James G. Basker

President, Oxbridge Academic Programs

Richard Gilder Professor of Literary History, Barnard College, Columbia University

Major Course Title:
CREATIVE WRITING

Faculty:

Tim Glencross, BA University of Cambridge, MFA New York University

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The structure of this four-week course is simple: for the first half of the month, we focus on fiction (dipping occasionally into creative nonfiction), and in the second poetry. The sessions involve three core activities:

- (1) Craft of fiction and poetry, which means learning about the tricks and techniques used by professional writers.
- (2) Workshop, where the students comment in a constructive and encouraging manner on each other's creative work.
- (3) In-class writing exercises, where we use prompts and targeted exercises to practice the craft strategies that we have discussed in the session.

It also goes without saying that this course involves a lot of reading. The assigned material is drawn from a range of different styles and genres. For fiction, for example, the students analyse stories from genres as diverse as science-fiction, comedy, minimalism, surrealism, fantasy, and Gothic horror. These core activities are supplemented by regular trips into Oxford for literary inspiration, including visits to the Bodleian Library and Ashmolean Museum. The course culminates with the production of an anthology magazine containing writing produced by students during the month as well as a "coffee house" public reading to students from across the Oxford Tradition programme.

REQUIREMENTS:

In-class time amounted to approximately 80 hours. Over the month-long course, students produced a portfolio of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Every student was required to complete one in-class presentation in the form of a close-reading of a work of poetry. Furthermore, students regularly read their own works-in-progress to the class and provided critical commentary on those of their peers. Mandatory homework assignments included reading short stories and poems, as well as drafting and editing original material. Each student submitted their own fiction, poetry and/or creative nonfiction to the class anthology magazine.

CLASS GUEST SPEAKERS:

Dr James Basker (Professor of English, Barnard College)

PROGRAM GUEST LECTURERS:

Maximilian Lau, Andrew Cusak, Dr. James Basker, Roberto Weeden-Sanz, Roxana Shafiee, Dr. Iain McGurgan, Joelle Ni Ghruagain, Atticus Carnell

FIELD TRIPS:

National Portrait Gallery, London; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Bodleian Library, Oxford; Oxford Museum of Modern Art

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Punting, Color War and Field Day, Rowing, Bodleian Library Tour, Macbeth Play at the Oxford Castle



*Pembroke College, Oxford
7 July - 3 August, 2019*

*Director, Larry Klein
Founder, Dr. James G. Basker*

Allyrienne Kyra Garcia

STUDENT NAME

CREATIVE WRITING

MAJOR

COMMENTS:

It was such a pleasure to teach Allyrienne (in class she asked us to call her Kyra) in this highly talented group of creative writing students. A wise, mature, and cheerful presence, Kyra engaged impressively with the varied writing styles and strategies that we studied over the month's course. I was also glad to note her new enthusiasm for creative nonfiction and the Wave memoir in particular. Her own creative work was outstanding. Most notably, at least for this reader, her 'ekphrastic' poem inspired by Poussin's *The Exposition of Moses* showed wonderful stylistic verve, with its confident use of enjambment and caesurae along with its playful phrasal repetition. "The Elygian", Kyra's dystopian prose submission and perhaps (hopefully!) the start of a novel-length work, was both a conflict-driven story opening and a layered introduction to a deeply imagined world of the Lower City. I do hope that Kyra enjoyed her time on the Oxford Tradition, and I wish her all the very best for her university career and future literary endeavours.

Director, Larry Klein

A+
Grade

Tim Glencross

Tim Glencross, Instructor

Dr. James G. Basker, Founder

Minor Course Title:
FILMMAKING

Faculty:

Kendra Lee Sanders, BA (summa cum laude), University of Kentucky; MSt, University of Oxford

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course explored the cinematic medium and elucidated the filmmaking process. Students acquired the practical skills necessary to conceive and produce their own creative works and occupy various crew roles, which enabled the discovery of individual strengths and interests. Students also learned to use constraints as a way to breed creativity and how to think visually about abstract concepts. Each student produced a 1-2 minute short film for the final project.

During the four-week course, students first learned to turn their ideas into scripts using a cinematic screenplay structure. Students then developed the necessary theoretical knowledge and skills to analyze the film form and thereby how to think visually in order to craft their own scripts into films. Moving from theory to practice, students learned the technique of filmmaking using industry equipment (cameras, lights, grip, and sound) and through diverse filmic exercises across many genres and styles. In the later weeks, the course mimicked the pre-production, production, and post-production process. Each student directed his/her own script, created a detailed storyboard, location scouts, pitches the film, casts actors, and organized a four-person production crew. The students worked on all projects such that each student had a chance to try out the major roles on a film set (director, editor, director of photography, sound recordist, and production assistant). The final films were premiered at an Oscar-style ceremony in front of their peers, program officials, and other faculty.

REQUIREMENTS:

In-class time amounted to approximately 24 hours. Each student participated in the close analysis of film scenes, rigorous discussion of interpretation, pre-production assignments to prepare their final films for production, and class equipment activities. Each student directed their own 1-2 minute short film as well as carried out five different production roles for films of his/her peers. This entailed a high level of flexibility and diligent work with colleagues outside of class time.

CLASS GUEST SPEAKERS:

CLASS: Jack Wrighton (MSt, Creative Writing, Specialisation: Scriptwriting, University of Oxford).

PROGRAM GUEST LECTURERS:

Maximilian Lau, Andrew Cusak, Dr. James Basker, Roberto Weeden-Sanz, Roxana Shafiee, Dr. Iain McGurgan, Joelle Ni Ghruagain, Atticus Carnell

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7 July - 3 August, 2019*

*Director, Larry Klein
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Allyrienne Kyra Garcia

STUDENT NAME

FILMMAKING MINOR

COMMENTS:

Kyra excelled in the Filmmaking course. Over four short weeks, she not only learned the practice of filmmaking but found confidence in her artistic voice. Kyra's final film project, "Pretty Girl," speaks to her achievements. The film follows a young woman as she battles to walk down the street without being made the subject of the male gaze and the object of aggressive catcalls. Kyra triumphantly expressed the inner turmoil of the protagonist by giving this inner struggle a visual expression. The young woman adds a piece of clothing each day. The power of the imagery alone is enough to bring the viewer to tears. Yet, Kyra's film transcends pure imagery. "Pretty Girl" is brilliantly cast, powerfully written, well-paced, well-edited, beautifully shot, and the sound is appropriately mixed. Kyra's film is very much a good film, which is no easy feat. Moreover, her film and the way its components work with one another are the sign of a talented young director. Multiple faculty members approached me independently after the film premiere to comment on Kyra's project. I mention this to say that it is not only me who holds Kyra in such high esteem. It was a privilege to teach her. I have all the confidence in the world in Kyra, and I look forward to what she will undoubtedly produce in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Klein'.

Director, Larry Klein

A+
Grade

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Sanders'.

Kendra Lee Sanders, Instructor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James G. Basker'.

Dr. James G. Basker, Founder