

Cross-course themes Autumn Term 2023

Week	Thematic focus Focus on Themes and Activities	Activity Programme / Events	Study visit ideas
1 04/09 è	Society: British social behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has Covid changed etiquette? (Social distancing, PPE, greetings, gestures) Queueing, (over) politeness, punctuality, dress codes Avoiding embarrassment - questions not to ask 	Oxford Open Doors weekend 09-10/09 St Giles Fair 04-05/09	Oxford City Centre Weston Library – <i>Gifts and Books</i> exhibition
2 11/09	Society: Education in Oxford <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widening access: privileged private vs. basic state education University timeline & number of colleges Famous alumni: Blair, Clinton, Tolkien, Hugh Grant, 'Mr Bean'... 	Oxford University Open Day Friday 15/09	University Open Day Science Blue Plaque Trail
3 18/09	Society: Digital society – Big Brother is watching you! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sir Tim Berners-Lee - World Wide Web creator 'Big Data' from social media, mobile phones, cookies, etc Scams, spam, spoofing, hacking, malware - security risks 		Blue Plaque Trail
4 25/09	Society: It's criminal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime statistics vs. newspaper scare-mongering Gang 'culture', sink estates, blue vs. white collar crime British legal system and its idiosyncrasies 	All student talk – Intimate relationships and Consent 27/09 16:30 – 18:00	Magistrates' Court
5 02/10 è	Values: Human Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Racism, sexism, ageism, cultural imperialism, colonisation, etc The Internet & children's/women's/ethnic minorities' rights The language of propaganda & persuasion 		Ashmolean Pitt Rivers Museum
6 09/10	Values: Moral vs. business ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big banks & businesses and moral/environmental/health issues Pay-day loans, online gambling, tobacco products, etc Copyright issues, industrial espionage, sabotage, etc 	Oxford Science and ideas festival 07-28/10	Charity shop trail
7 16/10	Values: Personal values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Happiness, pride & achievement Moral compass & ethics – knowing right from wrong Live and let live, tolerance of diversity 		Modern art Oxford - <i>Boundary Encounters</i> exhibition
23/10	Half-term Break	Half-term Break	Half-term Break
8 30/10	Customs: Freedom from oppression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guy Fawkes & modern-day protest movements Types of authority: dictatorship, monarchy, oligarchy, etc Famous orators (Churchill, JFK, Obama, Mandela) 	Fireworks displays Halloween	Guy Fawkes lantern at the Ashmolean
9 06/11	Customs: Remembrance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red/white poppies – 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month War art, literature & poetry War, conflict & reconciliation in 2020 		
10 13/11	Customs: Murder most British <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime & spy writers: Conan-Doyle, Christie, Rankin, Fleming, etc Famous fictional sleuths (Marple, Holmes, Rebus), cold cases (Jack the Ripper), spies (Bond, Smiley, Austin Powers) 	Christmas Light Festival in Oxford 17 -19/11	Literary Blue Plaque Trail
11 20/11 è	Traditions: Oxford literature & film/TV adaptations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hobbit; Lord of the Rings; Chronicles of Narnia Alice in Wonderland; His Dark Materials Inspector Morse & Lewis 		Bodleian Library Alice House Eagle & Child pub Weston Library - <i>Alphabets Alive!</i>
12 27/11 03/12 CPE 05/12 CAE	Traditions: Culture & language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colonialism & the birth of a world language US/UK cultural & economic imperialism today Endangered minority languages 	CPE – 02/12	Oxford University Press Museum Ashmolean – <i>Ashmolean now</i>
13 04/12 12/12 FCE	Traditions: Christmas is coming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickens, Prince Albert: the invention of Christmas Pre-Christmas customs elsewhere: Santa Lucia; Sinter Klaas Pagan celebrations & symbols: Saturnalia, Winter Solstice, Yule, Mumming, Wassailing, mistletoe, holly, ivy, wreaths, candles 	CAE and FCE – 09/12	
14 11/12	Traditions: Seasonal food & drink <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas cakes, puddings, gingerbread, stollen, panettone Turkey, stuffing, gravy, sprouts(!), redcurrant jelly – why? Mulled wine, eggnog, hot toddy, punch, hot buttered rum! 	Oxford Christmas Market (30/11 – 17/12 Dec)	Oxford Christmas decorations & market

Truth, Myths and Misconceptions – Seminar Series (Beginning in Week 2)