

WILLIAMS-EXETER PROGRAMME AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

How to Make Preliminary Tutorial Choices for WEPO Updated August 2024

Oxford University offers an enormous amount of lectures and tutorials on a huge number of subjects. You will be able to take at most six tutorials, so choose them carefully. First, talk to the academic advisors in your intended major. Second, consider the areas of study that you would not be able to pursue at Williams (for example: law, linguistics, theology, geography) or not in great depth (archaeology, theoretical physics). Then, think about your future: are there courses or skills that you would be wise to acquire at Oxford? Finally, consider: is Oxford the best suited to your interests and goals? (For example, students interested in creative arts, laboratory or field work, and especially, foreign languages, would not be served well by a year at Oxford.)

Below is a list of tutorials that Williams students have taken (or will take in Michaelmas 2024) which are likely to be available in the years to come. *This is not by any means a comprehensive list.* It is merely a starting point, and a way to get some ideas without wading through the enormous *Examination Regulations Handbook* or searching for options online. At the end of this list are instructions for how to explore more broadly on the Oxford University website. There are many topics not listed here that may be available. If you are interested in a subject not represented on the list below, discuss it with the programme director.

At the same time, the inclusion of a topic in this list in no way guarantees that it will be available in any given term, or even in a given year. In thinking about your choices, think about a replacement for every tutorial that you would want to take. Be aware that some disciplines (sociology for example) are taught only at graduate levels, and that graduate courses are usually not available to WEPO students. However, there have been exceptions, so consult the programme director and WEPO alums. Also, natural science departments have recently all but closed their doors to all visiting students. Physics and Earth Science are an exception to this trend, probably because Exeter has fellows in these fields.

Archaeology

Viking Archaeology
Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England, c. 600-750
Maritime Archaeology
Mesoamerican Maritime Archaeology

Anthropology

Anthropological Theory
Cultural Analysis
Political Anthropology
Medical Anthropology
Anthropology of West Africa
Farming and Early States in Sub-Saharan Africa
Anthropology of South Asia
Modern Egypt
Transnationalism and Diasporas
Landscape Architecture and Space Technology

Biology (typically without labs)

Note that as of 2022, visiting students are very infrequently admitted to Biology tutorials.

Cancer Immunology
Developmental & Stem Cell Biology
Ecology
Human Genetics
Immunology
Physiology
Evolutionary Dynamics
Virology

Chemistry (typically without labs)

Note that as of 2022, visiting students are very infrequently admitted to Chemistry tutorials.

Inorganic Chemistry
Organic Chemistry
Quantum Chemistry
Aromatic Medicinal Chemistry

Classics

Introduction to Classics
Homer's Iliad
Horace
Livy

Latin Historical Linguistics

Lucretius
Ovid
Plautus
Roman History 46 B.C. to A.D. 54
Satire
Epic
Tragedy
Greek and Roman Coins

Computer Science (typically without labs)

BioInformatics
Imperative Programming
Principles of Programming
Design & Analysis of Algorithms
Computational Linguistics
Models of Computation
Computer Graphics
Machine Learning
Computers in Society
Quantum computing

Earth Science (typically without labs)

Note that the intensity and quality of teaching in this faculty varies very greatly.

Ocean Physics
Geology and Petrology
Paleobiology and Paleoclimate
Seismology
Volcanology

Economics (arranged through Economics)

Microeconomics (Michaelmas term: MT)
Macroeconomics (Hilary Term: HT)
Quantitative Economics (similar to Econ 255, Trinity term: TT)
Behavioural and Experimental Economics (MT, HT)
Development of the World Economy since 1800 (all terms, lectures in TT)
Econometrics (a theoretical elective, MT)
Economics of Developing Countries (HT)
Economics of Industry (MT)
Environmental Economics and Climate Change (HT)

Finance (HT)
Game Theory (HT)
International Economics (MT)
Labour Economics and Inequality (HT)
Money & Banking (MT)
Public Economics (MT, HT, lectures in MT)

English

Note that preliminary subjects will allow you to work one-on-one with a tutor 4-5 times a term, as well as attend a small seminar with other Oxford students 4-5 times a term.

Paleography, Codicology, and the History of the Book
Material Texts (broken into several time periods)
History, Theory, and Use of the English Language
Old Norse (MT only)
Critical Theory and the History of Criticism
Medievalism in the Long 19th century
Romanticism
Literature in English (broken into several time periods, such as Medieval, Victorian, Modern...)
Postcolonial Literature
Chaucer
Shakespeare and his contemporaries
Charles Dickens
Emily Dickinson
George Eliot
Jane Austen
James Joyce
John Milton
Virginia Woolf
Black British Women's Writers
James Baldwin
South Asian Literature
20th Century Novel
American Novel Since 1945
Asexuality in 20th c. Literature
Nation building and Nationalism in Literature
Fairytales, Folklore, and Fantasy
Avant-Garde British Drama
American 20th c. Drama
Creative Writing
Stand-Up Comedy: Theory and Performance

Geography (typically without labs)

Note that tutorials in geography are difficult to get for visiting students.

Human Geography
International Migration
Geopolitics in the Margins
Cultural Spaces
System Dynamics

History (see attached "Doing History at Oxford" for specific electives)

History of the British Isles (broken into 7 time periods starting with 300-1087 and ending with 1900-present – see Undergraduate History website)
General History (broken into 19 time periods starting with 284-476 and ending with 1941-1973 – see Undergraduate History website)
Historiography
Postcolonial Historiography
Museums and Material Objects
The Global 20th Century
History of Global Capitalism
Masculinity and its Discontents
Intellectual History of the Middle East
Islamic History
The Folk revival 1760-1914
Indigenous People's History

History of Art

Methodologies in Art History
Experience of Modernity
Global Modernisms
Understanding Museums and Collections
Curating and Crisis
Art Repatriation
Art and Invention of Race
Painting and Culture in Ming Dynasty China
Politics, Culture, and Art in Renaissance Italy – Venice and Florence
English Architecture
Abstract Art in 19-20 century
Film Theory and Adaptation

European Cinema
Chinese Cinema

Contemporary Korean Aesthetics
Korean Art after 2000
Visual Culture of East Asia

Law

Constitutional Law
Criminal Law
Family Law
Public International Law
Jurisprudence
Medical Law and Ethics
International Environmental Law

Linguistics (typically without labs)

General Linguistics

Mathematics/Statistics

Note: The study of maths and stats at Oxford is very advanced, building on near-specialization in high school. While WEPO students usually do well in A and B level courses, C level courses should be attempted only after consultation with a Williams math/stat faculty member.

Abstract Algebra
Algebraic Number Theory
Analytic Number Theory
Applied Probability
Applied Statistics
Complex Analysis
Computational Statistics
Differential Equations
Foundations of Statistical Inference
Galois Theory
Graph Theory
Integration
Intro to Groups, Rings, and Fields
Model Theory
Number Theory
Probability
Real Analysis
Statistics and Data Analysis
Statistical Machine Learning
Topology/Topology of Groups
Measures and Integration
Complex Metric Spaces

Transport and PDSs
Lie Algebras
Lie Groups

Music

Beethoven: Between History and Myth
Bach: Composition
Twentieth century English Opera
English Renaissance Music

Neuroscience

Note that as of 2022, visiting students are very infrequently admitted to Neuroscience tutorials.

Introduction to Neuroscience
Cognitive Neurology
Cognitive Neuroscience

Philosophy

Plato's Republic
Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics
Augustine's Confessions
Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas
Early Modern Philosophy
Kant
Post-Kantian Philosophy
Nietzsche
Frege, Russell, and Wittgenstein
Later Philosophy of Wittgenstein
Heidegger
Existentialism
Feminist Philosophy
Indian Philosophy
Ethics
Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Criticism
Knowledge & Reality
Philosophy of Mathematics
Philosophy of Cognitive Science
Philosophy of Mind
Philosophy of Physics
Philosophy of Space-time
Philosophy of Religion
Bounds of Rationality

Physics (typically without labs)

Quantum Physics

Nuclear and Particle Physics
Classical Mechanics
Fluids
Condensed Matter Physics
Thermal Physics
Advanced Quantum Mechanics

Politics

Advanced Paper in Theories of Justice
British Politics and Government since 1900
Comparative Political Economy
International Relations in the Era of the Cold War
International Relations in the Era of the Two World Wars
Modern British Politics
Politics of the European Union
Politics of Western Europe
Political Sociology
Political Thought, Bentham to Weber
Political Thought, Plato to Rousseau
Marx and Marxism
Politics in Latin America
Politics in the Middle East
Middle East: Human Rights and Democracy
Politics of South Asia
International Peace and Conflict
Politics of Modern China
Social Policy
Theory of Politics
Feminist Theory

Psychology

Note that, as of 2022, WEPO students are unlikely to be admitted into Psychology tutorials.

Developmental Psychology
Education and Psychology
Emotion, Appraisal, and Feedback
Language and Cognition
Psychological Disorders
Psychology of Religion
Psychopathology
Social Cognition
Social Psychology

Sociology

Note that Sociology is taught at Oxford only as a graduate course, and undergraduates are rarely admitted.

Social Determinants of Health
Food Systems and the Future of Food

Theology

Aquinas
Augustine
Christian Moral Reasoning
Contemporary Theology and Culture
Foundations of Buddhism
God, Christ, and Salvation
Introduction to the Study of Religions
Jesus and the Gospels
John Henry Newman
Kierkegaard
Sufism

Looking for other options?

Check out the Oxford University website. Start here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing?wssl=1>

In this context, “course” refers to a course of study. Oxford students typically spend their entire three years as undergraduates studying one “course” (e.g., Economics; Politics; English). When you click on a “course” you should be able to find out about some of the standard “papers” (aka tutorial topics) that are available.

Keep in mind that not all tutorials are available in any given term, or even in any given year. Feel free to list your preferences, but remember that you may need to be flexible if a particular tutorial cannot be arranged. Consult with the faculty in your field, with WEPO alums majoring in your area of interest, and with either the current or past programme directors (depending on their specialty).