

## INFO 290: Academic Travel Course

# Chemistry, Codes & Crimes in British History

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½-credit course in May 2019

### Course Description

This is an academic travel course focusing on investigative methods that will be studied at historic sites, in museums, and at other locations in the world. The course includes both on-campus meetings prior to departure and on-site lectures. On this particular trip we will be visiting historic sites related to the science behind code breaking and crime solving in England and Scotland. Destinations include Bletchley Park, the Old Operating Theatre in London, the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, Surgeons' Hall Museums in Edinburgh, and a Jack the Ripper walking tour.

### Required Reading

- ★ *Secret Days: Code-Breaking in Bletchley Park* by Asa Briggs
- ★ Prior to the trip students will be asked to read two scholarly articles relating to the history of the one of the sites we will be visiting, and write up their thoughts on what they expect to encounter on the trip with respect to that history. Students may choose the time period/focus of their articles in consultation with Dr. Myers. These articles will make up part of the research for their final paper.

### Assignments & Assessment

#### Prior to trip

Preliminary Meetings – 10%  
Preparatory Narrative Paper – 15%  
Behavior & Participation – 5%

#### During/after trip

Travel Journal/Blog (with photos) – 25%  
Research Paper – 25%  
Behavior & Participation – 20%

### Learning Objectives

- ★ Students will expand their understanding of society's responses to crime in relation to the time and place in which crimes occur.
- ★ Students will better appreciate the value of collaboration across disciplines to aid in investigations.

Without question you should be ready to learn each day on the trip, hopefully with a positive attitude. Should you fall ill, break your leg, or have another serious dilemma that prevents your attendance on an excursion, we will adjust the requirements according to the situation. Your Travel Journal must be comprehensive and thoughtful, with notes that are taken on site supplemented with reflection at a later point. Students are also required to write a Research Paper on a museum or historic location that we visit. More details of each assignment will be handed out separately. *Please note: All assignments must be completed for you to earn a passing grade in this course. As a reminder, you must earn a C- or higher to count this course toward the Investigative Forensics minor.*

### Grading Scale

A = 100%-93%	B = 86.9%-83%	C = 76.9%-73%	D = 66.9%-63%
A- = 92.9%-90%	B- = 82.9%-80%	C- = 72.9%-70%	D- = 62.9%-60%
B+ = 89.9%-87%	C+ = 79.9%-77%	D+ = 69.9%-67%	F = below 60%

## !!! Important Notes !!!

Cell phone communication is valuable when traveling. Prior to departure we will sort out any issues with regard to using your cell phone overseas, and will make sure you have the faculty's numbers so you can reach us if there is an emergency when you are exploring one of the cities on your own (though preferably with other students).

Students at Monmouth are all expected to read and abide by the Scots Guide Student Handbook (available online at <http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/life/residence-life/scots-guide>) - EVEN WHEN YOUR COURSE IS OFF CAMPUS!!! As always, you should pay special attention to the Academic Regulations dealing with Academic Honesty and violations thereof, listed below in bold (*with my comments following each*):

1. **Cheating on tests, labs, etc;** (*This includes bringing in cheat sheets in any form, looking at a neighbor's test, talking during the test, or accessing online materials during a test.*)
2. **Plagiarism, i.e., using the words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit;** (*You will get a citation guide with your paper assignments that you should be able to follow easily. If you have any questions about how to cite a source at anytime, be sure to ask!*)
3. **Improper collaboration between students, i.e., not doing one's own work on outside assignments specified as group projects by the instructor;** (*If you have questions about when studying together becomes "improper collaboration" be sure to ask. As a general rule, you should make sure you separate yourself from your classmates before you start writing an assignment so that you can be certain it is in your own words and no one else's.*)
4. **Submitting work previously submitted in another course, without previous authorization by the instructor.** (*If you have done an assignment in another course that you think would work well for one in this course, it is not inconceivable that I would give you permission to reuse it...with revisions. Set up a time with me to discuss/negotiate the possibility.*)

All instructors at Monmouth are required to follow the procedures noted in the Student Handbook in regard to violations of the Academic Honesty Policy. It is incumbent upon you to remember the final portion of the Philosophical Statement regarding Academic Honesty: "Any breach of the academic honesty policy – either intentionally or unintentionally - will be taken seriously and may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or expulsion from the College. It is each student's responsibility to read, understand and comply with the general academic honesty policy at Monmouth College, as defined here in the Scots Guide, and to the specific guidelines for each course, as elaborated on the professor's syllabus."

Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability should speak with Dr. Myers prior to departure.

If you have questions or concerns at any point during the course, please pull me aside and talk to me about it. I am better able to help you if I know what help you need. ☺

## Class Schedule

Date	Topics covered...
Tuesday 19 March 19	Basics of British History  Practical discussion: money (coins, bills, & tipping culture), reading maps, public transportation
Tuesday 26 March 19	<i>Secret Days: Code-Breaking in Bletchley Park</i>  Practical discussion: safety – document safety, avoiding pick pockets and street scams – and souvenir shopping
Tuesday 2 April 19	Watch <i>The Imitation Game</i>  Practical discussion: 21st-century travel technology
Tuesday 9 April 19	London & Greenwich  Practical discussion: strategies for physical comfort (flying overseas, walking all day, etc)
Tuesday 16 April 19	Edinburgh & Glasgow  Practical discussion: restaurant etiquette (and restrooms)
Tuesday 23 April 19	No class...Scholars Day
Tuesday 30 April 19	Distilleries & Dissections  Practical discussion: what & how to pack

### Engagement Expectations

Each preliminary meeting will be 1-2 hours long, for a total of **12 hours**. Students will need to read and research before the trip for a total of **8 hours**. Tours and teaching on site during the trip, and reflecting on it in your journal, will take up an average of 5 hours per day, for a total of **45 hours**. Following the trip, students will need to write and revise their research paper and finish up their journal/blog; this work will take approx. **10 hours**. The total expectation for this course is **75 hours**.

# Travel Schedule



## **Day 1: Fly overnight to London (Tuesday, May 14th)**

## **Day 2: London (Wednesday, May 15th)**

Arrive in London.

Take a walking tour of London.

Ride on the London Eye.

## **Day 3: London (Thursday, May 16th)**

Museum Day #1.

Morning possibilities include: The Natural History Museum, the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, the Science Museum, and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Afternoon possibilities include: 221B Baker Street, the British Library, the British Museum, the London Transport Museum, and the Wellcome Collection.

Take a Jack the Ripper walking tour at night.

## **Day 4: London (Friday, May 17th)**

Museum Day #2. In the morning, take part in an interactive forensics workshop.

In the afternoon, possibilities include: The Charles Dickens Museum, the Florence Nightingale Museum, the Foundling Museum, the Museum of London, and the Old Operating Theatre.

## **Day 5: Bletchley Park (Saturday, May 18th)**

Travel to Bletchley Park to participate in a workshop and visit the National Museum of Computing.

## **Day 6: London (Sunday, May 19th)**

Visit the Cabinet War Rooms

Enjoy a cruise on the Thames River to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

## **Day 7: London → Edinburgh (Monday, May 20th)**

Take a train to Scotland.

Tour Edinburgh.

Group dinner in the evening.

## **Day 8: Edinburgh (Tuesday, May 21st)**

Visit Scotland's Secret Bunker and an historic and a modern distillery.

## **Day 9: Edinburgh (Wednesday, May 22nd)**

Day trip to Glasgow to visit the Hunterian Museum at the University of Glasgow.

## **Day 10: Edinburgh (Thursday, May 23rd)**

Visit Surgeons' Hall Museums and the Museum of Scotland to see Dolly the Sheep. Rest of day is free!

## **Day 11: Fly home from Edinburgh (Friday, May 24th)**