(IN PROCESS) SYLLABUS FOR STUDY ABROAD IN LONDON JANUARY 2018

HIS2731 SPECIAL TOPICS IN HISTORY: LEGIONS & LEGENDS, PAGANS & PRIESTS

This 3-week, special topics History course is under development. Feel free to check in with the Academic Director, Dan Miller , for up-to-date details. In the meantime, this program description should give you the basics:

Why did the Roman Empire, at the height of its geographical expansion, extend its northernmost reaches to the British Isles in 55 BCE? What prompted them to leave four hundred years later? What happened after they left, in a period shrouded in mystery and legend? Was King Arthur real? What of the legends of Excalibur, Guinevere and Lancelot, and the Knights of the Round Table? Who were the Saxons, and how did they finally unify Britain, reigning in a kingdom that has fired the imagination of the English-speaking world for centuries?

These are some of the questions we will explore in "Legions and Legends, Pagans and Priests." We will explore these questions through a consideration of the history, culture, religion, and literature of the period from the Roman occupation of England until its eventual unification in the reign of Alfred the Great, king of Wessex, in the 9th century. We will also explore these questions in a more experiential way, visiting archeological sites, cities, museums, and ruins that tell the stories of this complex history. And we will explore these questions from London, the city the Romans named "Londinium," a city which has helped to shape this history and has been shaped by it.

Student assessments will include reports on course-related excursions, brief reflection essays, and quizzes on course discussions and reading materials.