Frontiers and Fortresses: Study Abroad

Program July 6 — August 4, 2014

Frontiers and Fortresses is a four week, three course, nine credit Michigan Tech Study Abroad program hosted by the University of Cumbria. The students and staff will explore Cumbria and Northern England and Southern Scotland through a mix of course options, including archaeology, music, history, film and anthropology. A mix of classroom work, field trips and site visits will make up the program.

If you have questions about any aspect of Frontiers and Fortresses please contact Dr. Carl Blair
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MTU
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What’s New for 2013?

In 2013 we are planning on expanding our course offerings with the addition of History of England II, Music History, and Introduction to Film Music. All are regular MTU courses and may be used for major, minor or distribution credit, all are also HASS listed. Also there will be a few tweaks to the field trip schedule—we will visit and additional castle on the Scottish Borders trip and students in the Archaeology of the North will do a half day trip to Lancaster to visit the castle and priory there.
Cumbria and Carlisle

**Cumbria:** Was formed—or rather reformed—during the re-organization of English counties in 1974, its roots go back to early Medieval England when the region, which was known as Cumbria at that time was part of the British Kingdom of Strathclyde. A predominately rural county now with an emphasis on tourism and agriculture Cumbria was in the past one of the most significant political and economic hubs of England. Hadrian’s Wall runs across the north of the county, during the later Medieval periods when Scotland and England were in a state of near-permanent conflict the royal castle of Carlisle anchored the northwest frontier. During the American Revolution John Paul Jones even briefly attacked the Port of Whitehaven! Many of the early developments of the industrial revolution took place in West Cumbria and of course the region was one of the most important parts of the Romantic period with the flourishing of the Lake District Poets. The Lake District National Park helps to preserve the nature and character of the region now. The county is, as a whole, undergoing something of an economic and cultural revival perhaps best characterized by the formation of the new University of Cumbria in 2007.

**Carlisle:** The County seat of Cumbria and the largest—and only—city in the county. Carlisle has a population of about 100,000. The most interesting area of the city is the city center which is the home of the Castle, begun in 1122, and the Cathedral that dates from 1123. Perhaps the most significant post-Medieval period for the city was during the 1745 Jacobean rebellion when Carlisle was the scene of much of the fiercest fighting. The modern city has, along with its history, a wide array of cultural centers, extensive shopping opportunities and is the home of the University of Cumbria. Carlisle is also located on the main north-south road and rail routes making it a convenient base for exploring northern England and southern Scotland.
Courses Offered

Each Student enrolled in the program will take three courses. ALL students will take SS 3960 — International Experience (the core anthropology course of the program and in addition chose from 2 of the following options: SS3560 History of England I, SS 3561 History of England II, FA 3560 Music History (Chose 1 of the above for your morning course) and also, SS 3920 — Archaeology of the North or FA 2222 Introduction to Film Music: any student may take any of the courses you may mix SS and FA courses taking one of each, or you may just take FA or SS courses.

Information about these courses may be found at the MTU registers web site

Enrollment schedule

Once you are admitted you will be asked to complete a course enrollment similar to this. As this program, like all MTU summer programs, is self-supporting sufficient enrollments must be achieved in order to have the course/program run. You will asked whether you would consider alternate an course(s) if enrollments are low.

Name: _____________ e-mail ____________

MTU student? ___ yes ___ no ( if so from what university) ______________

Courses:

All: SS 3960 __ X __

Morning: First choice Alternate (if First is not offered)

SS 3560: History of England I: ___ ___
SS 3561: History of England II: ___ ___
FA 3560: History of Music: ___ ___

Afternoon:

SS 3920: Archaeology of the North ___ ___
FA 2222: History of Film Music ___ ___
A total of five trips are planned, four will be day trips and one a longer, three night, excursion to York. Along with the sites mentioned below, readings and discussions relating to the places to be visited will be a part of each experience.

**Day Trip #1: Neolithic Circles and Baronial Castles**

The day will start with a visit to Castlerigg Stone Circle (1/2 hr) – arguably the most spectacular Neolithic site in England, based upon location, next a drive through the Central Lakes with a late morning visit to Windermere a tourism hub of the area it is best seen as an English equivalent to the Wisconsin Dells, here we will also take advantage of one of the famed steamer Lake tours on Lake Windermere (4 hrs). After a pub lunch the afternoon will be spent in the Eden valley visiting Brougham Castle (1.5 hr), a significant and well preserved baronial castle, with Roman components, that was built to help control that vital communication route. The day will end with a brief visit to Brough Castle another of the Eden Valley Castles (1 hr).

**Day Trip #2: The Wall**

The day will start with a visit to Carrawburgh Mithrium, (.5 hr), then we will proceed to Houseteads perhaps the most dramatic of the Forts along the Wall (1.5 hr). Next a pub lunch, and a brief stop at Wallstown Crag with its dramatic view north of the Wall, followed by a stop at a Mile Castle (Poltross Burn — also a good spot for Pooh Sticks!) then a longer visit (2 hrs) to Birdoswald Fort, finally a brief stop at a turret (Banks).

**Day Trip #3: The Scottish Borders:**

The first visit of the day will be to Bewcastle Cross, perhaps the best Anglo Saxon Cross in the U.K. (30 minutes). We will cross into Scotland and then visit Hermitage Castle (1.5 hr) one of the best preserved mixed earth/wood and stone fortification castles in the country. Lunch and Jedburgh Abbey and its fine reconstructed monastic gardens will be next (2 hr), followed by a visit to Aydon Castle an amazingly well preserved fortified manor/castle (1 hrs) and finally to the well preserved abbey of Lanercost with its superb Tudor Village Hall and its wall paintings. (1.5 hrs)

**Day Trip #4: Edinburgh**

On this trip we will take the train to Edinburgh and in the morning view the castle, with the crown jewels, royal apartments, etc. The afternoon will be a tour of underground Edinburgh and a few hours for the student’s choice, there are many museums that could be viewed, such as the National Museum that emphasizes history and archaeology, or the National Portrait Gallery with its many works of art, or….
Trip to York:

Day 1: Travel and Countryside
Leave Carlisle in the morning, travel to York. We will stop at Barnard Castle with its many gates! and Richmond Castle with its superb Norman Keep (the tallest in the UK) and reconstructed gardens. After lunch—a traditional English Sunday Roast—we will visit Ripon Cathedral. Arrive at York in the late afternoon, city tour to familiarize students with town.

Day 2: Minster and Vikings
The entire morning will be spent at York Minster, one of the great cathedrals of the world, the undercroft with Medieval and Roman remains will be toured along with a visit to the tower. The afternoon will be spent with the archaeological resources of the Jorvik centre and its ancillary sites. An evening cultural event will be planned too.

Day 3: Museums and Walls
No trip to York is complete without a walk on the city walls, this will start the day the rest of the day will be an orgy of museums, the excellent York County Museum, Clifford’s Tower, and the National RR Museum – student choice - each must go to two of the three, time will be allowed to wander the Shambles and a free evening.

Day 4: Fountains Abbey and Return to Carlisle
Upon leaving York the group will proceed to Fountains Abbey and spend the morning and afternoon there, a World Heritage Site the abbey and grounds provide an opportunity to consider the history of the location and also how the site is presented to the public today. The recently renovated early Georgian gardens of the estate will also be visited. Return to Carlisle will be late, c. 8 PM.
Registration and Costs

Registration for Frontiers and Fortresses is quite simple, there are two tracks depending upon whether you are a MTU student or a non-MTU (guest) student.

MTU Students: Once you have talked with Dr Blair sufficiently to decide that you want to apply to the program go to the IPS web site (www.mtu.edu/international/study-abroad/apply/) and follow the instructions, pay your deposit—$500, ask questions throughout, apply for your passport, come to the orientation (Date TBA), buy your text books, start to read them and meet us at the airport in Manchester on July 5 at 10:00 am.

Non-MTU students, exactly the same except you need to fill-out the guest student application (same web site, click on “Guest Student”), and we will have a conference call orientation.

Note: You will register for the program through IPS—any problems please let Dr. Blair know, a group enrollment in the courses will be done during spring semester, you do not have to take care of this, we will as the courses are of course only open to those going.

Costs:

Program Fee: Currently the program fee is $3,950, however, it is possible if exchange rates remain favorable and new contracts are signed the fee may drop. All students, regardless of when they register for the program will pay the same fee, however if sufficient students are not registered by Feb 15, 2013, the program will be cancelled, so do not delay hoping the fee will drop, if it does, and we anticipate it will all will pay the same. Whether you are the first or the last student to register.

Included:
- Housing (residence halls Carlisle, Park Inn by Raddison York)
- Ground transfers from Manchester to Carlisle and return
- All field trips, admissions, speaker fees, and cultural events
- Groups Meals (3 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 9 restaurant dinners and 3 group cooking dinners)

Not included:
- Airfare, est. $1200 RT from O’Hare
- Meals, est. $599 (based upon the following assumptions, your choices—eat in or out—will impact the total; breakfasts, 25—@$5.25, lunches, 20—@$9, dinners, 16—@$18)
- Spending money: est. $800 (assume $200/week)
- Text books: est. $60
- Insurance: variable (we strongly urge both medical and trip)
- MTU tuition: 9 credits (charged at regular rates see official MTU web site for current charges)

Payment Schedule:
- Deposit ($500) due January 31, 2013 pick-up payment coupon at IPS so that it will be credited properly—this will hold your place in the program.
- Tuition and fees (less the $500 deposit) due: May 4, 2013 (regular MTU summer due date, if this changes then so too will this due date)

Financial Aid:
- MTU student’s only, non MTU students should consult with your own financial aid office. The 9 credits Frontiers and Fortresses is considered full-time enrollment for Track B, however in order to obtain financial aid during the summer one needs to be enrolled for at least 12 credits. If you are enrolled in 3 or more in track A, great, no worries. If you are not taking courses in Track A please talk with Dr. Blair about an extra 3 credit option for track B that will allow you to get financial aid.
Below are some answers to practical questions about the program, I am sure not all are answered, if you have others, please ask me, Dr. Blair—cblair@mtu.edu—directly and I’ll try and answer them I will also add them to the list for others too.

**Travel:** Air: As I know there will be students departing from multiple airports in the USA we will not have a group flight. We are trying to arrange airline discounts, once registered we’ll keep you posted.

**Arrival:** All students need to be at Manchester Airport, terminal #2, arrivals lounge by 10:00 am on July 4, 2012 where we will all travel north to Carlisle on a coach (bus) that will take you directly to the Fusehill Campus and the Carrock Halls of Residence at the University of Cumbria.

**Field Trips:** For all course field trips and also the longer trip to York transportation will be provided by professional coach firms based in Carlisle—except the Edinburgh trip here we will use British Rail.

**Departure:** We will leave for Manchester Airport at 6:30 am on August 1, arriving c. 9:00, so plan departure flights accordingly.

**Housing:** All students will live in the residence halls of the University of Cumbria, single rooms with private baths and group kitchens. When in York the group will stay at the Park Inn by Radisson hotel.

**Food:** Some meals are included in your fee, 8 lunches, 9 dinners at restaurants and 3 jointly cooked meals in the dorm, and 3 breakfasts (at York), others are up to you, Carlisle has a wide array of eating options from cheap and quick to quite expensive. The residence halls also have kitchens and are within 10 minutes walk from a major market, and 2 minutes to a convenience store (SPAR).

**Health and Safety:** Both Carlisle and York, are, as a whole, very safe cities. However, reasonable precautions should be taken as in any city. If you become sick or are injured there are excellent medical facilities in both cities and world famous hospitals are near by in Edinburgh.

**Free Time:** Most evenings, two full weekends and two partial weekends are yours to do what you will with, obviously homework will come first! Carlisle is centrally located on the main rail lines so travel is easy, we ask that you alert program staff as to where you are going and expected time of return. All free time travel is at your expense.

**Prescriptions and Glasses:** While, of course, excellent medical facilities are easily found in the UK it is recommended that you bring all needed medications—in clearly labeled and original bottles. It is also recommended that you bring copies of all prescriptions both medical and visual.

**Computers:** Will you need one? No. Will you want one? It is up to you, virtually all computers have internal power converters so that is no longer an issue but you will need a plug-convertor, available at virtually any major store in the USA—e.g. Wal-Mart.

Please Contact Carl Blair for updated information for 2014 Season.
Practical Information 2

**Clothing/Packing:** Practical field clothing suitable for walking over semi-rough terrain is recommended for the field trips. Otherwise normal clothing is suggested, laundry facilities are at the dorm and dry cleaning is available in Carlisle. Please note that as a whole England is more formal than the USA so 1—2 “nicer” outfits would be a good idea. Rain gear is essential. Baseball caps are strongly discouraged as these mark you as an American — and you will be treated differently. Pack lightly as you will need to carry all of your own luggage, and may want room for souvenirs!

**Weather:** That it rains all the time in England is a myth, however it can, sometimes, rain for days at a time. As a whole temps in Cumbria in the summer are compatible to a cool Midwest summer, with a lot of variation. Over the years I’ve experienced July day-time highs ranging from mid 90s to, low 50s and frankly on an average year less rain than in the summer at Houghton.

**Spending Money: How Much and How to Get It?** The amounts are very variable, if you decide to buy 4 cashmere sweaters you will need more. We recommend $200/week. The best way to get GBP when in the UK is at an ATM, you will be charged the lowest fees and get the best rates. I would not bother getting pounds prior to landing — it is expensive — and unnecessary, an ATM is available on the way to baggage claim, and more later at Manchester Airport, along of course dozens in Carlisle.

**Text Books:** Specific titles are not yet available, they will be by January.

**Passport and Visa:** All participants will need a valid US passport, and an UK visa — which may be obtained on arrival in England, a virtually automatic process, if you are not a US citizen please contact Dr. Blair and IPS for further information.

**Behavior and Expectations:** Although overseas, all students will still be under the MTU student conduct code and will be expected to behave accordingly. The legal drinking age in the UK is 18 so you are welcome to have a pint or two whenever, however, excess consumption will be strongly discouraged, obviously there will be zero tolerance for any drug use. Violations will result in immediate expulsion from the program and no refund. Please note, while the above sounds stern — and it is — Dr. Blair who has led or been a senior graduate student leader of international programs since 1987 has never had a student who has run into trouble with any of the above issues, and I do not expect this summer to be any different.

**University Policies**

Michigan Tech has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487-2212 or go to http://www.mtu.edu/provost/faculty-resources/syllabus-policies/