Program Dates
This is a two-week summer program, running from May 19 to June 3, 2015. Participation in the London program requires enrollment in and satisfactory completion of ENG 249 in Spring 2015.

Info Session
Monday, September 22, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., in Stern 201.

Application Deadline
The deadline for applications is Wednesday October 15, 2014, by 5:00 p.m. Please note that the application requires your advisor’s signature.

The Course
George Bernard Shaw once quipped that England and America are “two countries divided by a common language.” He makes an excellent point here: because there are so many superficial similarities between British and American culture, it is easy to miss how deep the differences between the two cultures actually run. And these differences, moreover, can be especially illuminating in what they reveal both about them and about us. Our goal will be to dig deep with our cultural analysis, exploring some of the paradoxes at the core of contemporary Britain and reflecting in turn on what this might reveal to us about the state of America in 2015, especially with respect to issues of class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

The program begins with a full-credit course you will take on campus in the spring, co-taught by Rob Carson and Melanie Conroy-Goldman. In ENG 249 (“Never Mind the Bollocks: Here’s Contemporary British Fiction”), we will read some of the most exciting British novels and short stories from the past two decades and consider these texts within a media-rich context of cultural history, which we will study through three different lenses: British film, British television, and British pop music. In other words, the course will use contemporary British fiction as a catalyst to analyze issues in contemporary British culture, and vice versa.
In this way, we will map out the contours of British culture from 1945 to the present: the challenges faced by postwar Britain with the collapse of empire, nationalization, and a generation looking back in anger; the cultural revolution of the sixties, the rise of Labour, and the emergence of swinging London; stagnation in the seventies and the insurgence of punk; the conservative stronghold of the Thatcher government and the Culture Wars that raged against it in the eighties; the rise of New Labour and the doubletalk, activism, and apathy of the nineties; coming to terms with multiculturalism, globalization, and the European Union in the 2000s; and the oscillating highs and lows of the 2010s, from phone hacking to the Olympics, from the diamond jubilee to the Scottish referendum.

The short-term program in London will count for another half-credit over and above the spring course, as we travel to Britain to study first-hand and up-close the various issues we have explored in the class on campus. We will spend the first third of the trip in London itself, immersing ourselves in the cultural and historical richness of the city and meeting with Londoners in person on their home turf. For the middle third of the trip, we will leave the capital to get a broader sense of Britain, traveling to Stratford-upon-Avon for a taste of life in rural Britain (and taking the chance to see some Shakespeare), then to Manchester to get a sense of life in a different big city (one that is defiantly not London), and then on to Aberystwyth in Wales to experience a Britain that extends beyond England. For the final third of the trip, we will return to London enriched with a new perspective and spend our final few days in the city exploring neighborhoods that lie outside the well-trodden paths of tourists.

Faculty Director
The program will be led by Professor Rob Carson from the HWS English Department. Professor Carson specializes in Shakespeare and other early modern writers, but his scholarship also focuses frequently on questions of cultural theory and matters of popular culture, especially with respect to Shakespeare and contemporary Britain. He has previously led a semester-long study abroad program for HWS in London, and he lived with his family in the United Kingdom for the 2011-12 academic year.

Themes and Focuses of the Course
We will have the spring semester on campus to get to know one another well and decide what exactly we would like the themes and focuses of the summer program to be. Depending on your collective interests, our time in the UK could have more of a literary focus, or an artistic focus, or an historical focus, or a political focus, or a sociological focus, or a media focus, or a theatre focus, or an urban studies focus (to name just a few options). Whatever we decide, our central project will be to encounter a swath of British culture first hand, visiting as many places and meeting as many people as we can manage in two intensive weeks. Our focus will be above all on thinking about questions of class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality: how are these ideas perceived and addressed differently in Britain and in America? And by paying close attention to these issues in another culture, what can we learn about our own preconceptions and habits?

Expectations for the Course
1. You will engage with the places we visit and with the people we meet with enthusiasm, open-mindedness, and focus, participating actively in the academic dimension of the program.
2. You will contribute to an overall group experience that is cohesive, respectful, and responsible.
3. You will keep a daily journal of about 1,000 words per day.
4. You will expand upon one or more of these journal entries following our return to the US and submit a final reflective and analytic paper of about 2,500 words.
Pre-Requisites
Students who participate in the program will be required to take ENG 249 (“Never Mind the Bollocks: Here’s Contemporary British Fiction”) on campus in the spring semester. We will also meet as a group on a number of occasions through the spring semester to discuss our options for the program in detail and coordinate our plans.

Required Readings
Our class in the spring will have a considerable reading list of not only British novels and short stories but also films, television programs, music, and news media. While abroad, we will build upon this foundation, choosing a short list of new readings based upon our specific interests. These might include: work by British poets and novelists we are scheduled to meet while abroad; plays we plan to see in production; at least one more novel; and a decent book on the history of London.

Course Cross-listings
This program has not yet been officially cross-listed with any departments or programs, and as a half credit, it may prove problematic for some. The ENG course that precedes it, however, would be an excellent addition to a major or minor in Media and Society, in European Studies, or in a number of other fields. It is up to individual advisors to decide upon goals, but the class and program taken together are designed explicitly to address both Goal 6 (on understanding differences and inequalities in race, class, and gender) and Goal 7 (on the multiplicity of world cultures).

Itinerary
An overnight flight from New York on May 19 will allow us to land in London on May 20, when spring is at its height. We will spend our first five days in London, crisscrossing the city with our peregrinations, visiting cultural and historical sites, and meeting with friends to help us interpret what we see.

Next we will embark upon a five-day trip by train into the British countryside, beginning with a day in Stratford-upon-Avon, where we will see a play by the Royal Shakespeare Company and engage in a day of bardolatry. From Stratford we’ll travel to Manchester, where we’ll spend two days exploring a city in the industrial North, one that offers a vibrant counterpoint to London. And then we’ll head west into Wales for two days, visiting Aberystwyth on the coast and perhaps Cardiff as well, so that we can get a better sense of just how far Britain extends beyond England.

Housing and Meals
Throughout our visit, we will stay in hostels run by the Youth Hostels Association of England and Wales. They will be clean and safe and have wifi and in some cases offer a complimentary breakfast; but to be clear, they will be unglamorous accommodation.
Although there will be a small number of group meals included in the program cost, for the most part students will be required to cover their food expenses themselves. London offers an outstanding range of culinary experiences (in fact, food will be one the things we talk about at great length in the program), and if you know what you’re doing, you can find all kinds of amazing meals in London quite inexpensively. In our preparatory meetings in the spring, we will strategize our options for food in depth.

**Eligibility**
Qualified first-years, sophomores, juniors and graduating seniors may apply.

**GPA Requirement**
Students applying for this program should have a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA. In the case of first-year students, we will have to wait until your fall grades are in before we can formally admit you. Provided there are spaces available, first years with successful applications may be given a conditional offer based on achieving at least a 2.5 GPA in the fall 2014 semester.

**Credits**
This course will be worth one-half HWS course credit.

**Medical Insurance**
Students will be required to have medical insurance while abroad. If you have already purchased the year-long HWS policy through Gallagher Koster, you will be covered for this program, since your insurance coverage is valid until June 30, 2015. However, be aware that the year-long plan only covers 70% of your costs while overseas, and so this could get expensive if you have to be hospitalized. You may want to consider purchasing the HTH plan below to supplement your coverage.

If you have not purchased insurance through HWS, you will need to find out if you are covered by your parents’ policy. If you are not covered by your parents’ plan, we recommend HTH Worldwide. The Travel Gap Voyager program from HTH Worldwide is a good option: [http://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/1_benefits_vaca.cfm](http://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/1_benefits_vaca.cfm) The plan costs between $15-25 for two weeks, depending on the deductible and amount of coverage you choose. This is a good all-around plan and it includes coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation. If you find a suitable plan through another company, that’s fine, too.
Costs
Program fees will be approximately $1600-1775 for the two-week program, which will cover tuition, accommodation, a tube pass, train tickets, theatre tickets, entrance fees for museums, and some meals. Students should budget an extra $500 above and beyond the program costs for meals not included. Students also will need to budget for roundtrip airfare at approximately $1200, books at $50, medical insurance at $20 (if you don’t already have it), and a non-refundable administrative fee of $100 charged for all faculty-led short-term programs.
*Costs are subject to change based on currency fluctuations, changes in costs of services provided and the number of students confirmed on the trip.*

Flights
A group flight will be arranged by the CGE and accepted students will be notified of the cost and booking info for the flight once it is available.

Passports and Visas
All students will need a passport valid until at least December 3, 2015, to participate in this program. Visas are not required unless you are not a U.S. citizen. Non-U.S. citizens should see Emily Kane in the CGE about visas as soon as you are accepted.

Immunizations
The United Kingdom does not present any noteworthy health risks. No immunizations are required.

Funding
In an effort to assist students in financial hardship who wish to participate in a short-term program, there is a limited pool of HWS funding available. If you are accepted to this program, we will invite you to submit a funding application. Funding will be allocated on a need basis and we will contact the financial aid office to verify your need status. We will also contact the Student Affairs office and the Dean’s office to access your social/disciplinary records as part of determining your eligibility for funding. We will let you know whether you have been awarded funding before the deadline by which you are required to put down a deposit for your place on the program.

Questions?
If you have questions about this program, please contact Emily Kane at kane@hws.edu or 315-781-3887.