



DH 492 / HON 350 / HST 495: Public History and Digital Humanities Internship

Summer 2026: Study Abroad in Lewes

A collaboration between the Lapidus Initiative for Early American Inquiry at Iona's

Institute for Thomas Paine Studies and Thomas Paine: Legacy

This course is designated as Community-Engaged Learning

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Course Description

This course explores how public historical memory shapes our understanding of the past. We will examine how interpretations of historical events are expressed through varied media and formats of public history and digital humanities. This internship encompasses a wide range of forms and spaces in which historical knowledge is brought to life and communicated to present-day audiences. Students will participate with local and national historical institutions and organizations and gain practical, experiential experience in public history and digital humanities.

Iona students have the opportunity to participate in the programs marking the 250th anniversary of the publication of Common Sense at Bull House, the historic home and business of Thomas Paine in Lewes, England, 80 miles south of London. Over the course of a three-week program, three Iona students will work on site with Leanne O'Boyle, director of Bull House, to develop and curate physical and digital exhibition and visitor interpretation materials.

Required texts will be provided and many other costs will be covered.

Grading Criteria & Assessment Information

1) Class Preparation and Participation

Being on time and ready for all course meetings, able to participate fully, is the primary requirement for this course. This includes pre-trip readings, museum and other excursions while in England, and meetings held with public-history stakeholders. Each hour of course engagement will be worth 10 points.

2) Reflection Journal Entries

It is essential to record your thoughts about the program before, during, and after activities. There will be required journal entries at least once a week, but students are encouraged to write and reflect more often as well. Central questions should be: How does this relate to public history? What have you learned that surprised you? What should be communicated to future visitors to Bull House? How has this experience enriched your Iona education?

3) Final Products

Iona's Institute for Thomas Paine Studies and Thomas Paine: Legacy want to continue to explain the importance of Thomas Paine to the world. In consultation with your instructors, we will create public-facing panels, social media, web content, and more to further that goal.

2026 Schedule:

Date	Day	Subject	Reading <u>Before</u> Class	Writing <u>After</u> Class
June 8	Monday, noon-2 https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6682996071?omn=86863709652	Iona orientation with Dayna Richardson; logistics and syllabus explanation with Dr. Arenson; discussion of packing (eSims, Whatsapp, adapters, planning for no AC and packing lunches, good walking shoes, watch for ticks, etc.) and other prep; daytrip planning	Read: Introduction to the Signet Classics Thomas Paine and Download and create account: https://www.buses.co.uk/app See: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1vLxG6U8sUz6hf11VgDLeUIBNiS4oaaPZUDENiCz3K7U/edit?usp=sharing	Journal #1 on Paine Introduction
June 15 630-830 pm	630-830 pm https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6682996071?omn=86863709652	<i>Common Sense</i>	Read: <i>Common Sense</i> and <i>American Crisis</i> #1	Before class: 3 key passages, either that you like or find confusing

June 24	Before you board	Thomas Paine in Lewes	Read: <i>Excise Tax</i> (PDF) and Watch: Walking Tour of Paine's Lewes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0JU9xlrn3Q	Reflection journal/questions of what to expect, find out about Thomas Paine and his legacies === Update your Iona Single Sign-On
6/24	Wednesday	<u>Take yourself to airport</u> <u>Arrive at JFK airport at 530am</u> fly JFK - 815am to Heathrow; Virgin Airlines #ESCXU8 <i>Before: make meal selections, upload passport, etc.</i> Shuttle van to University of Sussex		
6/25	Thursday	Arenson leads orientation to University of Sussex and Brighton; grocery shopping Gym, laundry, student centre, on-campus groceries, morning eats, library, bus to Brighton; eating, shopping, seashore		
6/26	Friday	Train to London - pack for three days and two nights in London Drop bags at hotel	Read: Franklin recommendation for Paine, https://shorturl.at/XOyVQ	Journal: Franklin and other signs of the colonial Americans in London

		City of London museum - Guildhall Art Gallery, then free time begins Stay: West Cromwell Hotel, London		
6/27	Saturday	<i>Free day - weekend - Dr Arenson can assist with plans if you want. FYI: It is London's Pride parade and Hyde Park music festival.</i> Stay: West Cromwell Hotel, London		
6/28	Sunday	<i>Free day - weekend - Dr Arenson can assist with plans if you want</i> 4pm Benjamin Franklin Museum Pick up bags at hotel Return train to Sussex		
6/29	Monday	Bull House & Lewes orientation tour Assisting Leanne at Bull House		Journal: first impressions of Lewes
6/30	Tuesday	Kitchen at 915 Meeting with mayor Seeing other museums in Lewes: Lewis Castle and Anne of Cleves House and Priory	Watch: "We Won't Be Druv" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApguUwb8QiE and	

			Read: https://sussexexcusive.com/the-sussex-charter/	
7/1	Wednesday	Kitchen at 915 Tour of Brighton (Kemptown and Royal Pavilion) with Dr. Iain McDaniel		Journal: comparing scope and audience of museums
7/2	Thursday	Assisting Leanne at Bull House ZDF television interview Changing the House		
7/3	Friday	bring laptops Assisting Leanne at Bull House Parade and storytelling event with local children		
7/4	Saturday	Fourth of July parade and activities in Lewes - we are assisting Leanne		Journal: impressions on Fourth of July in Lewes
7/5	Sunday	<i>Windsor-Eton-Oxford day trip - leave kitchen at 645am</i>		
7/6	Monday	<i>Free day - Seven Sisters and Beachy Head</i>		
7/7	Tuesday	Bring laptops	Complete this form: https://secure.the	Journal: Impressions of Thomas Paine: Legacy project

		Introduction to Museum work Thomas Paine: Legacy; Thomas Paine in the public consciousness	keep.info/register	
7/8	Wednesday	bring laptops The Keep - viewing booked of Separation Document What is known and unknown about Paine in Lewes		
7/9	Thursday	bring laptops Assisting Leanne at Bull House 6pm Book launch for Leanne	archaeological report and which room is Paine	
7/10	Friday	U Sussex excursion: Hastings and Battle <i>(Optional; can be free day)</i>		
7/11	Saturday	<i>Free day - weekend - Dr Arenson can assist with plans if you want</i>		
7/12	Sunday	<i>Free day - weekend - Dr Arenson can assist with plans if you want</i> <i>(holding seats for day tour to Bath and Stonehenge if we want them)</i>		

7/13	Monday	Deborah Gage - Firle House British perspectives on the American Revolution Afternoon work in Lewes		
7/14	Tuesday	work on panels or other output for Bull House - drafting and revising Goodwood? <i>415pm mountain biking reservations</i>		
7/15	Wednesday	bring laptops work on panels or other output for Bull House - drafting and revising		draft of work for Bull House
7/16	Thursday	bring laptops work on panels or other output for Bull House - drafting and revising Final presentations Farewell dinner: White Hart		Journal: summation, justification, and evaluation of the course
7/17	Friday	<u>Leave from dorm at 445am</u> fly back to JFK; same van shuttle, confirmation Virgin Airlines #ESCXU8		

Past materials created have been shared by the Thomas Paine Legacy and Iona and ITPS channels, including here:
<https://www.iona.edu/news/iona-students-curate-250th-anniversary-exhibit-common-sense-thomas-paines-historic-england> and
<https://www.iona.edu/offices/office-of-study-abroad-service-learning/study-abroad/study-abroad-programs/lewes-england>