Social Sciences courses at Pembroke College, Oxford

Economics & Management
History & Economics
History & Politics
Law (Jurisprudence)
Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
The work of social scientists is needed more urgently than ever. Issues such as environmental change, poverty, cybercrime, economic and political turmoil, inequality, the movement of people and social development require a global response founded on research. We provide the rigorous knowledge base and inspiration for new policies to address these challenges. Here at Pembroke our tutors are world-leading experts in topics including development economics, the impact of the internet on competition law and politics in Eastern Europe; graduates include eminent politicians Lord Heseltine and Senators Fulbright and Lugar; Editor of the Guardian Katharine Viner and Lord Peter Ricketts, former Ambassador to France and Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Office. Pembroke offers a lively environment to study the social sciences with set piece events including the Fulbright Lecture in International Relations and Blackstone Lecture in Law; excellent library facilities and a wide range of student-led activities.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AT OXFORD

Full information about applying to Oxford, including submitting your UCAS application, admissions tests, the interview process and the timeline for decisions, can be found at:

https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford

The information contained in this booklet is correct at the time of printing (May 2017) but is subject to change. Please see the University website (https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate) for official information about undergraduate admissions and course content; in the event of any discrepancy between the information in this booklet and the University website, the University website should be considered the authoritative source. Due to research leave and changes in personnel, the availability of individual members of staff cannot be guaranteed in any given year.
Pembroke’s library is open 24/7 to members, and has study space over two floors, with power points at every desk and wifi coverage throughout. Students can borrow as many books as they need, and loan periods are for the entire term or vacation. For First Year students, all but the most obscure books should be available in the Pembroke Library, and we have as many as possible for subsequent years.

The Library Staff are able to provide support on finding books both here and in the Bodleian Libraries (and beyond!), using electronic resources, and research support for Undergraduate Theses. We also encourage students to suggest titles to us, and buy as many student requests as possible to make sure every student has what they need to successfully complete their course.

Studying in the McGowin Library, and Laura Cracknell, the Pembroke College Librarian.
SOCIAL SCIENCE SOCIETY

WHO ARE WE?
The Social Science Society is for all Pembroke students across the social science subjects - economics, politics, management, law, education and a number of others - and historians, both undergraduate and postgraduate.

The aim is to bring students together across subject lines. Our regular events hope to encourage discussion of broad topics from the varying perspectives students bring from their different disciplines.

EVENTS AT PEMBROKE

We try to have one lecture and dinner event per term. Past guest speakers have included: Danny Dorling (‘Inequality and the 1%’), Ivan Toft (‘Standing Watchfully By’) and Professor Martin Ruhs discussing his latest book on rights and migration.

The Pichette Auditorium at Pembroke attracts prestigious speakers whose topics often cover the social sciences, while business-minded students can take part in an annual business competition. Details are below.

Public Lecture by Dame Margaret Hodge MP
Pembroke invites guest speakers to the College, many of whom may be of interest to Social Science Society members. In February 2016, Dame Margaret Hodge spoke on her work with the Public Accounts Committee.

Blackstone Law Lecture 2017 - The Right Honourable Lady Justice Hallett
The annual Blackstone Lecture took place on the 20th May 2017, given by The Right Honourable Dame Heather Hallett DBE. The lecture was entitled ‘Juries Past and Present’.

Tri-Innovate Business Pitching Competition
Pembroke is one of three Oxford University Colleges to collaborate for the annual Tri-Innovate Business Pitching competition, featuring presentation workshops and cash prizes and won in 2017 by a Pembroke team (pictured).
Pembroke has a strong involvement with Management Studies and one of the largest cohorts of Economics and Management (E&M) students. The College has two Management Fellows, Professor Owen Darbishire, a specialist in negotiations, collective bargaining and employment systems, and Dr Eamonn Molloy, an expert in complex organisation design and the role of technology in professional and organisational change.

In Economics, Pembroke has an established and experienced teaching team, led by Dr Brian A’Hearn and Professor Pramila Krishnan, who specialises in Development Economics. Economics at Pembroke is taught with a real-world emphasis, taking a critical approach to economic theory.

Pembroke has the advantage of one of the largest cohorts of E&M students of any College. The College has a friendly and supportive reputation; the E&M undergraduates tend to work well together and support each other throughout their degree.
At Pembroke, we admit 2 or 3 undergraduates to this course each year, and aim to create a supportive cohort for those who join us.

Pembroke’s tutors and lecturers are experienced in ensuring that those on the joint course have all the help they need to navigate the options and specialities available to them, and many of our teaching staff have research interests which span the two disciplines.

This joint course aims to give students a strong set of skills spanning logic, analysis, historical interpretation and expression of ideas, leaving them with a broad range of career options.

Pembroke’s senior Fellow in Economics is Dr Brian A’Hearn, an Economic Historian. He is a specialist in the long-run economic growth of Italy, with interests in institutions, human capital and education, technology, business cycles, banking, cities and regions, anthropometrics, living standards and inequality. Dr A’Hearn regularly tutors all undergraduates on Economics courses.

Dr Rueda’s research spans a wide range of interests and she has recently published an article on the impact of mission activity in sub-Saharan Africa on social and economic development.

Professor Tuck’s research interests include modern race equality struggles in Britain and America, the relationship between religion and racism, and the writing of national history.

Find out more at: www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/history

* In total, we admit 13 students for History and its joint courses
There are many overlaps in the study of History and Politics, and Pembroke is well established as a college of choice for this degree.

Pembroke’s tutors for this course have a wide variety of interests spanning these disciplines. They are led by Professor Adrian Gregory (a specialist in war and religion), Dr Sophie Nicholls (early modern political thought) and Professor Stephen Whitefield (whose research interests recently have included political opinion in Egypt and constitutional change in the Ukraine).

Find out more at:
www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/students/admissions/courses/history-politics
Pembroke has a strong tradition in law, ranging from the 18th century lawyer William Blackstone (see opposite) to more recent alumni such as Lord Carswell, Sir John Mummery and Lord Justice Ian Burnett.

The College has two permanent law fellows, Professor Ariel Ezrachi, an expert in Competition Law, and Professor Rebecca Williams, an expert in Criminal and Administrative Law. In 2016, Professors Ezrachi and Williams were shortlisted for OUSU student awards for outstanding pastoral care, and in 2017 Professor Williams was shortlisted for both outstanding tutor in the social sciences and a special recognition award. In addition, Pembroke has two Farthing scholars (DPhil students) to assist with teaching in Administrative and Criminal law, plus a Lecturer in private law.

To date, Pembroke’s Law students have benefited from schemes and events such as:

**The Slaughter and May Book Scheme** which provides core text books to each student free of charge

**The Blackstone Lectures** given annually by a legal leader (see page 9)

**Pembroke’s Annual High Achievers’ Event** which recognises undergraduate academic success

**Study Skills Sessions** which teach the techniques necessary for study of law

**Mooting Competitions** to develop legal skills in a practical context. (These are fictional cases argued by students, as if barristers.)

To see how recent alumni benefited from these things and what they are up to now see: [www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/law-alumni](http://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/law-alumni)
Sir William Blackstone is one of the true giants of English Common Law. He became a student at Pembroke College in 1738 at the age of 15.

He became Professor William Blackstone, the first holder of the Vinerian Professorship, in 1758. Despite apparently modest educational aims, his lectures were truly ground-breaking, and were eventually published in four volumes between 1765 and 1769, under the title Commentaries on the Laws of England. His was not the first, but probably the greatest, attempt to organise the English Common Law into a rational and clear structure. More specifically, however, Blackstone’s lectures were intended to instate the study of the common law at Universities in an attempt to break the monopoly of the study of the Civil, meaning Roman, Law. His legacy is inestimable in England and the United States of America, where his Commentaries became and remain a major resource for judges and practitioners. They would also go on to inform the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the USA.

Pembroke’s current legal community honours Blackstone by convening a distinguished lecture each year in his name, which is attended by all law students, in addition to senior legal academics and practitioners. For the most recent lectures we have welcomed Lord Neuberger (President of the UK Supreme Court) to speak on ‘Tweaking the Curial Veil,’ Sir Keir Starmer MP (former Head of the Crown Prosecution Service) who addressed the question of ‘Human Rights: can Britain go it alone; and should we?’ and The Right Honourable Lady Justice Hallett who spoke about ‘Juries Past and Present’.
Pembroke aims to admit seven students each year for the PPE course, and this course regularly attracts a number of international students, including Rhodes Scholars. Our undergraduates come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and no prior detailed knowledge of Philosophy, Politics or Economics is required. Although a background in Maths is not formally required for admission, PPE applicants should have sufficient interest in, and aptitude for, Maths to be able to cope with the mathematical elements of the course in the areas of economics, logic and data analysis.

PPE demands the ability to take stock of large amounts of evidence, arguments and scholarly material and apply intelligent analysis to it. It is very much a course for those who like wrestling with different theories, problems, and conflicts while developing their own views.

At Pembroke, efforts are made to emphasise the value of interdisciplinary cooperation at all levels of study. For PPE students this may take the form of involvement in the Social Science Society, which meets to stimulate debate from the variety of perspectives represented by students and academics alike.

The College tutors teach the compulsory papers and a wide range of special subjects throughout the three-year course. At Pembroke, the tutorial team is led by Fellows Professor Stephen Whitefield, Dr Brian A'Hearn, Professor Pramila Krishnan and Professor Guy Kahane. They are supported by a long-standing and experienced team of lecturers and tutors to ensure high standards of teaching and support for all undergraduates.

Pembroke often invites prestigious guest speakers in areas relevant to PPE to give lectures at the College. In February 2016, Dame Margaret Hodge spoke on her works with the Public Accounts Committee.

Find out more at: www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/ppe
Senator J William Fulbright, whose interest in international relations is perpetuated in the Fulbright Scholarships, was a Rhodes Scholar at Pembroke in the 1920s. Fulbright was a Southern Democrat and a staunch multilateralist who supported the creation of the United Nations and was the longest serving chairman in the history of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He opposed McCarthyism and the House Un-American Activities Committee, and later became known for his opposition to American involvement in the Vietnam War. His efforts to establish an international exchange program eventually resulted in the creation of a fellowship program which bears his name, the Fulbright Program.

Pembroke honours its connection to Fulbright by the provision of seminars and lectures in his name, which are open to all students. The 2016 Fulbright Seminar Series, convened by Pembroke’s Professor Stephen Whitefield and Fulbright Visiting Fellow Professor Robert Rohrschneider, attracted speakers such as Sir Robert Worcester (Founder of MORI) on ‘Britain and the European Union: Second Honeymoon or the Divorce Courts?’, and Professor Josef Joffe (Editor of Die Zeit) on ‘The End of the ‘End of History’ and the Return of Power Politics’.

The annual Distinguished Fulbright Lecture Series is organised in association with the US-UK Fulbright Commission, and Oxford University’s Department of Politics and International Relations, and has attracted Nobel Laureates such as Professor Joseph Stiglitz as speakers. In 2017 the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, Professor Louise Richardson, spoke on ‘The University in the Age of Populism’, while in 2016 Professor Michael Ignatieff addressed the issue of ‘The European Refugee Crisis: what is to be done?’, and in 2015 former US Ambassador Jack Matlock spoke on ‘Managing the Crises in Ukraine and Elsewhere: Lessons for Leadership’.
All students on Humanities and Social Science courses at Pembroke are eligible for a Book Grant scheme to help with the cost of buying essential texts.

Whilst the College ensures there is a good stock of books for all subjects in the library, we realise that it is important for students to have their own copies of core texts. Therefore, each eligible student will receive £100 in their first year, and another £100 in their final year, to help with the costs of buying essential textbooks.

The book grants are available to all students studying courses contained within this booklet.

The 1954 Group of Pembroke Alumni are a generous group of donors who have for many years sought to improve the financial position of Pembroke undergraduates and the student experience in general.
All Pembroke students benefit from the financial support available to all Oxford undergraduates – see [www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding) for full information. In addition, the College provides:

**Hardship funds** for students who face unexpected difficulties due to changes in circumstances once here.

**Vacation grants** for students who need to stay in Oxford after the end of term for exams or other study-related reasons.

**A variety of travel funds** for study-related activities.

Academic excellence is rewarded through annual College Scholarships and Exhibitions, awarded on the basis of performance at public exams and throughout the year. Pembroke has an annual Scholars’ Dinner to celebrate the admission of new Scholars and Exhibitioners. The Scholarships are currently worth £300 and Exhibition £150 per year. Additionally, Scholars and Exhibitioners are currently entitled to a college accommodation grant scheme, worth £1000 for Scholars and £500 for Exhibitioners.

Pembroke also offers a range of special academic prizes and awards specific to a range of subjects, as well as for those involved in sports and the arts at high levels.

Find out more at: [www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/finance-undergraduate](http://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/finance-undergraduate)
Some of the terms used within Oxford University can be confusing at first – here’s a quick-start guide to explain some of the words and phrases you might hear around Oxford.

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<tr>
<th>Battels</th>
<th>The charges made to a member of a college (student or Fellow) for accommodation, meals, etc.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Collections</td>
<td>College exams taken at the start of each term on material covered in the previous term, or in special circumstances</td>
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<td>Coming up/Going down</td>
<td>Arriving at Oxford at the beginning of the term/leaving at the end</td>
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<td>Division</td>
<td>There are four academic divisions – Humanities; Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences; Medical Sciences; and Social Sciences.</td>
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<td>Fellows</td>
<td>In colleges, the senior members of college who, together with the college head, constitute the governing body of the college.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>Final examinations at the end of three or four years as an undergraduate student – the level of degree awarded is largely dependent on performance in these exams.</td>
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<td>Formal Hall</td>
<td>A traditional meal held in college. Depending on the college, formal attire and/or gowns may be worn, and guests from outside the college may be invited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Term</td>
<td>The main undergraduate teaching period at Oxford. It lasts for eight weeks and runs from Sunday of First Week to Saturday of Eighth Week.</td>
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<td>Hilary Term</td>
<td>The second of the academic year’s three terms, running from January to mid-March (c.f. Michaelmas, Trinity).</td>
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<td><strong>JCR (Junior Common Room)</strong></td>
<td>In addition to being the formal undergraduate student organisation of a college, the Junior Common Room is the hub of undergraduate social activity; also a physical location in a college for student recreation.</td>
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<td><strong>Michaelmas Term</strong></td>
<td>The first term of the academic year which begins in October and ends in December (c.f. Hilary, Trinity).</td>
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<td><strong>Matriculation</strong></td>
<td>Matriculation confers membership of the University on those students who are enrolled at the University of Oxford and following a degree-level course.</td>
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<td><strong>Noughth Week</strong></td>
<td>The week before the beginning of Full Term.</td>
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<td><strong>OUSU</strong></td>
<td>Oxford University Student Union.</td>
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<td><strong>Pigeon Post</strong></td>
<td>Nickname for the University Messenger Service, the free internal mail system.</td>
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<td><strong>Prelims</strong></td>
<td>(abbrev. Preliminaries) Preliminary examinations are first year examinations</td>
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<td><strong>Subfusc</strong></td>
<td>Formal attire worn by students and academics on formal occasions, including matriculation, examinations and graduation. It is made up of a dark suit, skirt or trousers, a white shirt or blouse and a white or black bow tie, black full-length tie or black ribbon, worn with a black gown and a mortar-board. The name derives from the Latin subfuscus, meaning dark brown.</td>
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<td><strong>Trinity Term</strong></td>
<td>Summer term (c.f. Hilary, Michaelmas).</td>
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<td><strong>Tutorial</strong></td>
<td>Undergraduates attend, on average, one hour-long tutorial every week, either on a one-to-one basis or with one or two other students. Students must undertake a considerable number of hours’ preparatory work for each tutorial, including background reading, essay-writing and problem-solving.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tutor</strong></td>
<td>Someone who teaches students on an individual basis or in pairs. They may be a Fellow, Junior Research Fellow, or a graduate. They act as both a teacher and an academic guide</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vac</strong></td>
<td>Abbreviation of vacation - the periods between terms</td>
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