

Washington and Lee University
Lifelong Learning

Summer Explorations I

Discover the Middle Ages:
A Week of Exploration,
Connection, and Insight

July 6–11, 2025

Daily Schedule

Sunday, July 6

3:00-5:00 pm	Program Registration	Early Fielding foyer
6:00-6:55 pm	Opening Reception	Lykes Atrium
7:00-8:10 pm	Opening Dinner	Kamen Gallery
8:15-9:00 pm	Ice Breaker	Lykes Atrium

Monday, July 7

9:00-9:05 am	Announcements	Science Addition G14
9:05-9:55 am	<i>The Byzantine Bridge</i> George Bent, Sidney Gause Childress Professor of the Arts	Science Addition G14
9:55-10:15 am	Discussion	
10:15-10:35 am	Break (Group Photo)	Great Hall
10:35 – 11:25 am	<i>Up from the Ashes: Christian Europe in the Age of Charlemagne</i> George Bent, Sidney Gause Childress Professor of the Arts	Science Addition G14
11:25-11:50 am	Discussion	

12:00-1:15 pm	Lunch	Evans Hall
1:30-2:20 pm	<i>The Gupta Empire 320-550 CE: Materiality and Morality in India's Golden Age</i> Melissa Kerin, Professor of Art History	Science Addition G14
2:20-2:35 pm	Discussion	
2:35-2:45 pm	Break	
2:45-4:00 pm	<i>Getting to Know W&L Better: "Meet W&L Summer Research Students & Learn What They Are Exploring"</i>	
4:00-6:00 pm	Free Time Swimming Pool Open (4:30-5:30 pm)	
6:00-6:50 pm	Reception	Tucker Hall
7:00-8:00 pm	Dinner	Evans Hall

Tuesday, July 8

9:00-9:05 am	Announcements	Science Addition G14
9:05-9:55 am	<i>Out of Arabia: A Retro Avant-Garde Early Islamic Art</i> Theo Van Loan, Visiting Professor of Art	Science Addition G14
9:55-10:15 am	Discussion	
10:15-10:35 am	Break	Great Hall
10:35-11:25 am	<i>Architecture in Europe</i> Lorenzo Vigotti, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow, University of Bologna	Science Addition G14
11:25-11:45 am	Discussion	
12:00-1:15 pm	Lunch	Evans Hall
1:30-2:20 pm	<i>City, Sight, Spectacle and the Era of Caliphs</i> Theo Van Loan, Visiting Professor of Art	Science Addition G14
2:20-2:35 pm	Discussion	
2:35-2:45 pm	Break	

2:45-3:45 pm	Seminar Extra Credit <i>Florence As It Was: Digital Reconstruction of a Medieval City</i> George Bent, Sidney Gause Childress Professor of the Arts	Science Addition G14
3:45-6:00 pm	Free Time Swimming Pool Open (4:30-5:30 pm)	
6:00-6:50 pm	Reception	Gaines Hartog Commons
7:00-8:00 pm	Dinner	Evans Hall
8:15-9:15 pm	Documentary (TBD)	Stackhouse Theater

Wednesday, July 9

9:00-9:05 am	Announcements	Science Addition G14
9:05-9:55 am	<i>Philosophy: West to East to West</i> Nathaniel Goldberg, Professor of Philosophy	Science Addition G14
9:55-10:15 am	Discussion	
10:15-10:35 am	Break	Great Hall
10:35-11:25 am	<i>Pilgrimages and their Sites in Western Europe</i> George Bent, Sidney Gause Childress Professor of the Arts	Science Addition G14
11:25-11:45 am	Discussion	
12:00-1:15 pm	Lunch	Evans Hall
1:30-2:20 pm	<i>Pilgrimages and Their Sites in Buddhist South Asia (3rd Century CE-10th Century CE)</i> Melissa Kerin, Professor of Art History	Science Addition G14
2:20-2:35 pm	Discussion	
2:35-6:00 pm	Free Time Swimming Pool Open (4:30-5:30 pm)	
6:00-8:00 pm	Lexington at Home Reception	Hotchkiss House

8:15-9:00 pm	<i>Explore and Practice: Music of Heaven in All Things</i>	Grace Episcopal Church Martha Burford, Minister of Music
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Thursday, July 10

9:00-9:05 am	Announcements	Science Addition G14
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9:05-9:55 am	<i>India's Great Temple Cities of the 11th Century CE: Thanjavur and Khajuraho</i>	Science Addition G14 Melissa Kerin, Professor of Art History
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9:55-10:15 am	Discussion	
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10:15-10:35 am	Break	Great Hall
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10:35-11:25 am	<i>Silk Road or Silk Network? Trade in Medieval Eurasia</i>	Science Addition G14 Matthew Chalmers, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
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11:25-11:45 am	Discussion	
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12:00-1:15 pm	Lunch	Evans Hall
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1:30-2:20 pm	<i>Architecture in the Middle East</i>	Science Addition G14 Lorenzo Vigotti, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow, University of Bologna
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2:20-2:35 pm	Discussion	
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2:35-2:45 pm	Break	
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2:45-4:00 pm	Seminar Extra Credit <i>Getting to Know W&L Better: Deepening Awareness of W&L's Rich History</i>	University Chapel Matt Davis, Director of Institutional History Museum
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4:00-6:00 pm	Free Time Swimming Pool Opens (4:30-5:30 pm)	
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6:00-6:50 pm	Reception	Watson Galleries Rotunda
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7:00-8:00 pm	Dinner	Evans Hall
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8:15-9:15 pm	<i>Trivia Night: What Did You Discover This Week?</i>	Hillel House
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Friday, July 11

9:00-9:05 am	Announcements	Science Addition G14
9:05-9:55 am	<i>Points of Contact Between the West & the Middle East</i> Lorenzo Vigotti, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow, University of Bologna	Science Addition G14
9:55-10:10 am	Discussion	
10:10-10:20 am	Break	Great Hall
10:20-11:10 am	<i>The Crusades: God's War in the Middle East</i> Matthew Chalmers, Visiting Assistant Professor of History	Science Addition G14
11:10-11:25 am	Discussion	
11:30 am-12:00 pm	Faculty Panel	Science Addition G14
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch	Evans Hall