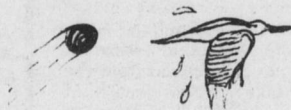


# Dick Mortan to lead London semester

By Beth Eakes  
Layout Editor

Dr. Richard Morton used the following quote from T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* to express his objective in being the faculty member for the 1980 London Semester:



..... This is the use of memory:  
For liberation - not less of love but expanding  
of love beyond desire, and so liberation  
'From the future as well as the past. Thus, love of a country  
Begins as attachment to our own field of action  
'And comes to find that action of little importance  
Though never indifferent. History may be servitude,  
History may be freedom.

T.S. Eliot  
"Little Gidding"

"Well this is much better put -- the issue I'm trying to engage; what I'd like to do is to have people read that passage and be able to say: "I know what he's talking about" (in an American context). "I see it and know what it is."

He is considered to be one of Guilford College's most dynamic professors, a sage, a crazy old man, and a friend. Dr. Richard Morton will lead the 1980 London Semester with his wife Nancy.

Dr. Morton was born in Jacksonville, Florida and grew up in Charleston, South Carolina. While making his way through under-graduate school, pursuing a goal no less than governor of South Carolina, Dr. Morton had a number of interesting jobs.

He was a door-to-door typewriter salesman and stand-up comic. Some people consider the latter occupation to be a permanent fixture in his psyche. Guilford first encountered Richard Morton in 1969 after completing his studies.

**The Historical, the Unhistorical, and the American** will be taught by Dr. Morton as part of the London Program next Fall. "In my course," Dr. Morton says: "I want to have the opportunity to fully investigate what it means to say a people are without a precedent. Meaning that Americans are without a precedent for their humanity.

"Pretty clearly this on one hand is logically sensibly and historically not true, particularly in relationship to Europe, because we have many European branches. One of the primary ones has obviously been British. But the whole idea of trying to do something which hasn't been done before under a conscious sense of history -- there are really no patterns for what it is you're trying to achieve in the present situation.

"I want to really get an opportunity to see if that throws a different kind of strain on the human psyche, and therefore really brings about a different kind of overall awareness of our condition."

In Dr. Morton's course, the students will read Emerson's "Nature," "Experience," and "Fate," Whitman's first edition of "Leaves of Grass," Henry James' "The Portrait of a Lady," and T.S. Elliot's "Four Quartets." He realizes that a difficulty in using this material will be the fact that his students will arrive at varying levels of writing ability, critical analysis and consciousness.

Though he does not want this factor to discourage anyone from taking the class, Dr. Morton comments: "That's going to be a real challenge and a real problem. I hope I can do something about individualizing the kinds of approaches we want to take.

I think it's possible the way the books have been chosen," if you can get folks to come to a certain recognition of a structure in an essay like "Nature." What is Emerson saying in "Nature" about nature? About human nature? What are the implications about human nature in nature?"

The first edition of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" will be included. Dr. Morton is Guilford's authority on this famous American writer, having completed his doctoral thesis on Whitman in 1969 from the University of Georgia. "In "Leaves of Grass" you can bring it down to this level: what is really the meaning of the word 'experience'? Is it a dictator of our human being? Or is it a means by which certain kinds of innate qualities we have exfoliate into reality. People can grasp that concept."

Concerning Henry James's masterful novel "Portrait of a Lady," Dr. Morton says: "It's a heck of a study of an American facing an excruciating choice and coming to a conclusion



Dr. Morton contemplates the immense task of leading his students into new dimensions of perception and experience during the 1980 London program.

which is profound. Profound in that it is extremely moving and convincing."

"A book like James' novel really faces head on the question of vague and hopeful senses of aspiration and freedom and possibilities that enter an environment in which fairy tale princes and fairy tale princesses become real human beings, and where choice becomes real. It is where the construction of a personal history begins to form. Then one's eyes are opened at unexpected junctures and one is faced with becoming something real."

"The real problems of America are a problem of time. Just because we don't have cathedrals, we don't have a richness of character and class and a precedent. But we do have two things: we have a great liberation in time and a terrible nakedness.

Our identity as a nation -- we have to face it without precedent. We really have to take a true shooting to find out what is the lay of the land of our being." I think the books I'm talking about will do that."

Concerning the "Four Quartets," Morton commented, "I've had people right here on the Guilford College campus who have gotten rich rewards from reading the 'Four Quartets.' They just made all kinds of breakthroughs into the power of language and into the perception of the work." One can imagine the impact of reading such a work, since Dr. Morton

plans to actually visit some of the locations Elliot wrote about.

Mrs. Morton is very excited about the possibilities of her course. She has come to see art as a very lively and active athletic kind of vision. "A work of art is not a static thing sitting on a wall. There's a lot going on inside the frame. The contour of art on London is endless."

She wishes to draw out the multi-dimensions of art and to view art historically as a means of expression. Mrs. Morton plans to integrate various parts of the city into her course.

Dr. Morton feels that the Woodbrook trip early in the semester is important. "The schedule I saw included two Shakespeare plays at the Royal Shakespeare Theater. I'll look forward to that aspect of it." There will also be a course in Quakerism.

"We do get a fall break that will last ten days. Of course, that's when most people will do the most traveling. I want to go to Scandinavia but I also want to go to Italy. So it's going to be a toss up for me. If I could do what I wanted to do, I think I'd like to go to Russia. Just to see it. Just to smell it."

This program is guaranteed to be an experience for each student who participates. One hopeful participant, Chip Loughlin, a junior, said: "I want to go over there so I can see America better. Get a kind of new perspective on home, because this is where I'm from."

## Airfare Information

There are a number of discount overseas flight packages from the United States to London. The following costs are based on current prices, courtesy T.W.A. airlines:

**Standby:** New York to London only. Tickets may be purchased at any T.W.A. ticket office but the seat reservation must be confirmed at J.F.K. in New York on the day of departure. This type of ticket is on a first come first served basis.



**Budget Fare:** Reservations must be made when ticket is purchased. Ticket must be purchased at least three weeks prior to chosen week of departure. The patron chooses a week he wants to leave and the airlines notifies the patron of his exact date of departure ten days before the flight. For this type of flight, there is no minimum or maximum stay.

\$210.00 one way\* (peak season)  
\$396.00 round trip\* (peak season)  
\$196.00 one way\* (low season)  
\$367.00 round trip\* (low season)

Peak season is May 15th through September 15th.  
\*All prices do not include \$10.00 international departure tax.