

The “*Seminar & Oxford learning model*” is based on the readings and sustained discussions of the materials provided and the books. With the shared expectation that together we will have an inquiry and far-ranging conversation, the seminar method allows for a particularly powerful encounter with these books, materials, and the thoughts and research contained. We seek to discover the vital questions they raise for us as human beings. It also anchors, enlivens, and thoughtfully brings together the work of humans as we as humans discover what it means to be a human.

Every session begins with a question—a question formulated to foster a genuine investigation into the meaning of a text, the subject matter at hand, the chapters involved, related material we have discovered, and what various author(s) are trying to invoke in us, the reader. There are no ready-made answers. Each of us comes with a set of experiences, or if you will “baggage” that will provide new and interesting insights for all who are involved. Where that discussion may travel

during the session is unpredictable. It all depends on the moment-to-moment dynamism of human conversation in an encounter with a text(s) of inexhaustible richness. The experience is an adventure—and we must realize that adventurers are what the learning process is all about.

It doesn't matter what our backgrounds are, or how old we are, or what our previous education has been: When we sit around the table, virtual or in person, together, we're simply human beings grappling with ideas, posing questions, and responding to the material at hand. The collective bond we form around great thinking is profound. This is what it means to be human and the difference the difference makes.