



**THE HOUSTON SEMINAR**  
**ENCOUNTERING SOUTHERN CULTURE:**  
**A JOURNEY TO OXFORD AND MEMPHIS**

**Thursday, April 6 - Sunday, April 9**

We are headed north to the hills of Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County (Oxford, MS) and to Memphis, on the bluffs of the mighty Mississippi just across the state line in Tennessee. Stephen Fox, architectural historian, and Memphis' own Willy Beardon (writer, filmmaker and producer), will lead us through the civil rights and cotton history, music scenes and other significant environs of Memphis. Mississippi NPR and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture (including the Southern Foodways Alliance) at Ole Miss in Oxford will provide the basis for a journey through Mississippi history, food, music and literature.

**PRELIMINARY ITINERARY**

**April 6      Thursday - Arrive in Memphis**

- 11:00      Meet bus at Memphis Airport
- 11:45      Travel to Strawberry Plains Audubon Center (a 2,500-acre cotton plantation reverted to nature) in Holly Springs, MS for box lunch and tour
- 3:30      Arrive in Oxford at The Graduate, boutique hotel
- 5:00      Brief tour of Oxford town square area led by Stephen Fox
- 6:00      Attend live session at Off-Square Books of Thacker Mountain Radio Hour, Mississippi NPR's most popular program featuring music and readings
- 8:00      Dinner at the Snack Bar, one of City Grocery Group's legendary John Currence restaurants

**April 7      Friday a.m.**

- Presentation at Center for the Study of Southern Culture ("CSSC") (including the Southern Foodways Alliance), Barnard Observatory, University of Mississippi
- Brief bus tour of "top spots" at Ole Miss and in Oxford
- 12:00      Lunch - Free for lunch at restaurant of your choice around the Square

April 7

**Friday p.m.**

Visit Rowan Oak, home of William Faulkner, with guided tour by CSSC docent.

Visit Ammadelle (private home), an Italianate mansion designed by New York architect, Calvert Vaux

4:30

Bus departs for Memphis

6:00

Check in to “the South’s grandest hotel”, the Peabody

7:30

Dinner at Felicia Suzanne’s, with pre-dinner presentation by our Memphis tour leader, Willy Beardon. [See willybeardon.com](http://willybeardon.com)

**April 8-9**

**Saturday and Sunday**

*(Visits to sites below will be organized over 2 days to optimize schedule)*

Bus tour of downtown Memphis led by Beardon and Fox, with emphasis on civil rights, music and cotton history

Visit to National Civil Rights Museum, which includes Lorraine Motel where MLK was assassinated

Visit to Big River Crossing, the longest public pedestrian bridge across the Mississippi River

Visit to Sun Studio with guided tour (Note: Elvis hung out in parking lot hoping for an audition with owner, Sam Phillips)

Visit to Stax Museum of American Soul Music (Note: Otis Redding arrived as a chauffeur for a then bigger star)

Tour of Memphis’ “Central Park,” Overton Park, designed by George Kessler, who designed Hermann Park

Visit to Graceland

**April 8**

Dinner at Flight Restaurant

**April 8**

Lunch at Interstate BBQ

**April 9**

Box lunch

**April 9**

**Sunday**

4:30

Tour ends with bus at Memphis airport