WEST DEAN COLLEGE

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SLW07364 MEDIEVAL ARMOURING – THE 15TH CENTURY ITALIAN GAUNTLET

Tutor: GRAHAM ASHFORD

Dates: LONG WEEKEND THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER – SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course is aimed at beginners or those with some basic metal working skills; introducing everyone to the skills required to size and make a working 15th century Italian style gauntlet.

The gauntlet you will be making was the product of approximately 150 years of near constant European warfare and represents, for many, a design that has never been bettered. Made from 3 or 4 interlocking plates that do not interfere with human movement it offers near complete protection.

It offers the opportunity to make something truly historical and aesthetically wonderful that once represented the very pinnacle of science and military research.

Starting with a look at pictures of some original armour and a pair made by the instructor the course will teach you how to properly size patterns, shape, planish, clean and fix the plates creating an articulated, working piece of sculpture.

Depending upon your skill level, it is hoped that everyone will be able to finish one complete gauntlet. Any time left over will be used to start another gauntlet or the associated forearm defence (vambrace).

To allow for the required skill for the course and to ensure that there is enough time left, some parts of the build involving hand tools like power shears and grinders may be done by the instructor.

All tools and materials are provided by the college. This course takes place in the Forge.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE
For those with little or no experience and for those who have taken a related course. Suited to those who would like a structured introduction to a subject, with further building of skills to work towards independent practice.

Potential students must be able to repetitively use light hammers and hold metal tongs in the other hand while standing at an anvil height and higher worktop.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Graham Ashford has been a professional armourer for just over eight years. He trained with Master Armourer David Hewitt at White Rose Armouries on a scholarship from the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust. His commissions have been shipped internationally and he continues to work with reenactors, museums and collectors. He has also written pieces for historical periodicals.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Thursday 12 October

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – **attendance is an essential part of the course**.

Other days: Friday 13 and Saturday 14 October

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee (at the Garden Restaurant)
11.00am	Morning classes continue until 12.30pm
12.45pm	Lunch (main house)
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea (at the Garden Restaurant)
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: as tutor supervision is required at all times when students work in the forge any evening working will need to be negotiated with the tutor.

Departure day: Sunday 15 October

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee (at the Garden Restaurant)
11.00am	Morning classes continue until 12.30pm
12.45pm	Lunch (main house)
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.
For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

All fuel costs, leather and metal required for the project.

Please bring:

You will need clothing suitable for workshop use, together with sturdy flat leather shoes or work boots – with toe protection. Soft training shoes with synthetic fabric uppers do not offer enough protection.

Please note that cotton or wool clothing is preferable to nylon or other synthetics. A pair of cotton jeans is far more protective than a pair of nylon trousers.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING SUPPLIED:

Leather aprons, work gloves, safety spectacles and ear defenders are provided in the Forge, and suitable protective clothing **must** be worn.

You may wish to bring any of the above, if you have them. If for example you have particularly large or small hands, your own work gloves are likely to be a better fit.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Please note that tutor supervision is required at all times when students work in the forge. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

For your safety it is mandatory to wear steel toe capped safety boots when undertaking a course in the Forge. Students must provide their own footwear and bring them with them to wear on the course. If you fail to bring suitable footwear, you will not be able to take part in the course.

Safety boots can be purchased from most tool hire shops and builders merchants as well as online.
www.cromwell.co.uk www.bhinone.com