

## Courses starting Summer Term 2019

### Monday Mornings

#### **Economics in the News**

**Angela Pollard**

The course will be a blend of economic theory and its application to current affairs/economic news.

Each session will be divided into two sections. In the first part we will look at a piece of economic theory such as supply and demand. In the second part we will look at news stories which illustrate the theory covered in the first part. **However, this term we will focus on Housing in the UK, Welfare and Health issues.** We will look at the private as well as social costs of poor health, discuss some of the demands on the NHS and its alternatives as well as explore government policies to improve the nation's health. In the housing element we will look at the economic characteristics of the housing market and government policies to address our current housing shortage.

**10 weeks from 29 Apr £64**

**1XEC10C18**

### Monday Afternoons

#### **The Holy Grail**

**Dr Gary Day**

At the heart of Arthurian legend lies the compelling story of the Holy Grail. What was this strange and fascinating object? Why was the pursuit of it considered to be the ultimate quest? What powers did it have? This course will look at the nature of the grail and its place in pagan as well as Christian mythology in an attempt to understand it a little better. Can this mysterious object really be, as Fiona Mirylees claimed, the wooden chalice stolen from her home in 2014? Or is it, as Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln argued in their book *Holy Blood and Holy Grail*, the bloodline of Christ and Mary Magdalene? Most likely neither. The power of the grail, as we shall see, lies in its symbolism.

**5 weeks from 29 April £32**

**1XHG05C18**

#### **The Green Man**

**Dr Gary Day**

The Green Man is not just the name of a pub. It is a powerful symbol of our relationship to nature. Although the Green Man can be found in church architecture his ancestry goes back much further. This course will sketch his history and discuss his significance. Among other things we will look at the representation of the Green Man in art and mythology and we will also think about his relevance to today's environmental movement.

**5 weeks from 17 Jun £32**

**1XGM05C18**

#### **Design Icon IV**

**Caroline Bacon**

We will look at 10 masterpieces of design, from buildings to fashion, from the mundane to the sublime. Discover the extraordinary stories behind seemingly every-day objects.

**10 weeks from 29 Apr £64**

**1XDI10C18**

### Tuesday Mornings

#### **The First World War Seen Through Others' Eyes**

**Frank Livesey**

Most of us see the War of 1914-8 in terms of the arm-wrestling of European Powers across Flanders Fields. Not so elsewhere; for peoples of the Middle East it was 'The War of the Ottoman Succession'. The geopolitical rivalries of the Great Powers, increasingly focused on the region, were resolved in the proxy wars they fought there in 1914-18 as part of the Great Game.

The local participants and victims were seen as unfortunate collateral damage. But for them it meant devastation, massacres, famine, ethnic cleansing and genocide, leaving as a legacy a cauldron of antagonisms. The post War Settlements created new colonies ('Mandates'), encouraged new settlers in Palestine, stimulated new forces (Turkish and Arab Nationalisms, Zionism, Socialism), which largely account for the volatility and turmoil that have characterised the area. Much of the subsequent history of the Middle East can be read as the unfinished business of the War of the Ottoman succession.

**10 weeks from 30 April £64**

**2XFW10C18**

### Tuesday Afternoons

#### **Great Contemporary Moral Issues**

**Dr Karim Esmail**

There are a number of issues which are of great moral concern today. We will consider a number of them in this course: The Family, Animals, Abortion, Euthanasia, Immigration, Multiculturalism, Freedom of Speech and Religion, Capital Punishment, War, and World Hunger. In each case, we will arrive at an understanding of the issue and then consider the case for and against.

**10 weeks from 30 Apr £74**

**2XGC10C18**

#### **The Mechanics of Motion: The Discoveries of Galileo and Newton.**

**Tim Parrott**

Galileo was one of the first scientists to write books for non-specialists wanting to improve their understanding of the physical world. He urges his readers to think carefully and logically. Newton built on those foundations to reveal a Cosmos ruled by physical laws, many of them breath-takingly simple. This course aims to make their discoveries accessible to those without a scientific background.

**4 weeks from 1 May £25**

**2XGN05C18**

#### **What Exactly is Art?**

**David Lewry**

The course aims to take a rather different look at the way we perceive and critique art. The course will explore a number of philosophical issues surrounding art and will consider questions such as:

What is Art For? What Counts as Good Art? How Should Art be Bought and Sold? How should Art be viewed? Rather than being just a sit and listen course, students will be encouraged to bring their own views to the table and discuss topics and pictures suggested by the tutor. Many of these questions have been touched on in other art history lectures so this an attempt to bring them all together. If you love art (or even if you hate some aspects of it!) this is an opportunity to consider ideas and viewpoints that may support or contradict your own position. It should be a stimulating and interesting course - especially when we consider Tracey Emin's Bed!

**10 weeks from 30 Apr £64**

**2XWE10C18**

### Wednesday Mornings

#### **Discussion Group**

**Self Help – No Tutor**

Students discuss a variety of philosophical and ethical topics, including contemporary moral issues. The group meets weekly during the summer term and then continues to meet every Thursday throughout the summer. This lively and topical class is perfect for those interested in discussing current affairs in a relaxed and friendly environment. No need to pre-book.

**From 1 May**

**£1 per session**



## Herman Melville (1819-1891) and *Moby-Dick* (1851)

Dr Stephen Rogers

Have you ever been fascinated by the story of *Moby-Dick*? Whether you have read it before or not, what better time could there be to take a closer look at this epic book than in the year of Herman Melville's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday. D. H. Lawrence thought it was "one of the strangest and most wonderful books in the world," and his view has been endorsed by numerous writers, readers and critics, who have regarded it as one of the supreme achievements of American literature.

10 weeks from 1 May £64 3XMD10C18

## Watercolour for Complete Beginners

David Lewry

Watercolour is an extremely popular medium for artists but it can be one of the trickiest to master. Many people would like to try it but are daunted by the prospect of joining a class where others may be more experienced. David is an experienced tutor at the Centre and believes that the early stages of teaching the medium require a lot of demonstrations and hands-on help that is not always possible in the more experienced classes. This course is designed exactly to offer this help. No previous experience will be assumed and all of the basic techniques will be carefully explained and demonstrated. There will be plenty of time to practise and ask questions, with a view to gaining confidence and experience. The aim of the course is to get students to a stage where they will be able to slot into one of the other classes at the Centre and not feel out of place. A list of basic inexpensive materials will be provided before the start of the course.

10 weeks from May 1 £54 3WC10C18

## Wednesday Afternoons

### Angels & Phantoms: Hilary Mantel's *Bring up the Bodies*

Margaret Norwich

In the sequel to her award winning novel *Wolf Hall* Hilary Mantel returns to the court of Henry VIII to consider one of the most mystifying and frightening episodes in English history as seen through the eyes of Thomas Cromwell, the blacksmith's boy who is now the King's Chief Minister. The demise of Anne Boleyn is a story we all know but in this spellbinding account by an author at the height of her powers there is much to surprise, amaze and provoke discussion: please join us!

5 weeks from 1 May £32 3XAP05C18

### Script Reading Shakespeare: *The Winter's Tale*

Margaret Norwich

A perfect way to revisit Shakespeare's late comedy, or is it a romance? We will draw on scholarship and seminal performances to enhance our reading, but there is no better way to appreciate a play than by participating. There will be non-speaking parts for those who prefer them, but we will all have the opportunity to interpret this challenging and sometimes dark play, and respond to Shakespeare's most famous stage direction in a timely manner. Please join us!

5 weeks from 12 June £32 3XWT05C18

## The Victorian Era

Steve Lowe

By definition, this period covers the reign of Queen Victoria, from 1837 -1901. It is probably the most important period in British history, with great wealth being accumulated through the colonies and latterly industry, a liberalization of politics and society, and a large increase in the population, apart from in Ireland. As well as looking at the UK as a whole, we will see how the nations changed during this period. We will also look

at how the 'old order' found itself increasingly under pressure and how it reacted.

10 weeks from 1 May £64 3XVE10C18

## European Film Studies

Caroline Bacon

Over 10 weeks we shall look at some of the most acclaimed films from the continent from the last 100 years: *Das Kabinett des Dr. Caligari* (1920); *Roma città aperta* (1945); *Smultronstället* (1957); *Hoří, má panenko* (1967); *Il Conformist* (1970); *L'Argent* (1983); *Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios* (1988); *Delicatessen* (1991); *Intouchables* (2011); and *Jagten* (2012).

10 weeks from 1 May £35 3XFS10C18

## The Stuarts

Deirdre Higgins

The century from the death of Elizabeth 1 to the reign of William and Mary is one of the dramatic periods of British history as it includes regicide, civil war, the Protectorate under Oliver Cromwell, the Restoration, the Plague, the Fire of London and the Anglo-Dutch Wars. We will look at the key themes which underlie the period – fear of absolutism and anti-Catholicism: the balance of power between Crown and Parliament: the growth in financial and political power of the Political Nation: the effects of war. You will learn about some fascinating characters in the political and cultural sphere – Pepys, Van Dyke, John Milton, Oliver Cromwell and Nell Gwynn.

10 weeks from 1 May £64 3XST10C18

## Thursday Mornings

### Life & Death in Roman Britain

Paul Palmer

What was it really like to live in Britain during the Roman period? There is now sufficient evidence available to allow us to make a reasonable attempt to better answer that question, than ever before. The course will investigate the range of evidence, to provide an up-to-date assessment of the lives – and deaths – of people at various levels of society, in the Romano-British culture of the period.

10 weeks from 2 May £74 4XLD10C18



### Trees in Landscape and Culture

Dr Twigs Way

The oak and the ash, the holly and the hornbeam, willows, spindles and service, poplars pears, limes and pines. . . England is full of trees – in hedgerows and parks, along boundaries and in gardens. This course will explore some of the histories behind their presence, their uses and meanings, where they are from, when they arrived, where they are planted and why. We will celebrate them in art and in literature, explore poems in their honour and even taste their produce. From the ancient yew to the modern multi-stemmed birch, each week a new tree and a new tale to tell.

10 weeks from 2 May £84

4XTL10C18

### Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Dr Gary Day

Along with Wordsworth, Coleridge was one of the pioneers of Romantic poetry. He was also the philosopher of the Romantic movement and his ideas still shape, to some extent, how we think of poetry today. This course will act as introduction to Coleridge's life, his politics, his philosophy and his poetry. We will be using Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Major Works* (Oxford World's Classics) as our text.

5 weeks from 2 May £32

4XST05C18

### William Wordsworth

Dr Gary Day

Wordsworth is arguably *the* Romantic poet. Just about anyone who has been to school knows the line 'I wandered lonely as a cloud'. His poetry, compared to that of some of his contemporaries, is simple and direct yet also profound. His work, indeed, shows that you do not have to write in a difficult manner to discover and explore profound truths. This course will be an introduction to Wordsworth's life and writing and we will be using *Wordsworth's Poetry and Prose*, edited by Nicholas Halmi (Norton Critical Editions)

5 weeks from 13 Jun £32

4XWW05C18

## Thursday Afternoons

### Art, Architecture and Society in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

Madeline Edmead

The eighteenth century is a rich period in art and architecture. This reflects an exciting and dynamic society. In this course we will see how art and architecture reflect different aspects of society and see how social history can enhance our understanding of its creativity.

10 weeks from 2 May £64

4XAA10C18

### Selected Contemporary Novels

Dr Sharon Priestley

On this discussion-based course we analyse three contemporary novels that feature characters in diverse situations and consider plot, setting, characterisation and message. Emma Healey's *Elizabeth is Missing* (2014) focuses on an elderly female protagonist who is highly unreliable and fascinating; this novel won the Costa first-novel award. *We are Completely Beside Ourselves* (2014) by Karen Joy Fowler, was shortlisted for the Man Booker prize and features a most unusual family arrangement.

*A Man Called Ove* (2015), is the delightfully quirky debut novel by Fredrik Backman. Translated from Swedish, the novel depicts a grumpy yet loveable man. Readers may encounter their neighbours in the books we discuss!

10 weeks from 2 May £64

4XCN10C18

### The Age of Reason - Britain 1700-1837

Liz Carter

Using a wide variety of sources ranging from diaries and journals to tax records and parliamentary debates, we will examine key changes to government policy and society attitudes throughout

the Hanoverian dynasty and the effect on everyday life. Topics to be covered will include food and entertainment, scandals and riots, prime ministers and their policies, wars won and lost, poverty and crime and, of course, philosophers and radicals – after all, this was the Age of Reason.

8 weeks from 2 May £58

4XAR08C18

## Friday Mornings

### The English Language

Jenny Morris

Whether you are a native speaker of English or not, you have a mastery of a language whose fascination and foibles can be bewildering, baffling, enchanting and eternally thought provoking. Puns and poetry, advertising copy and instruction manuals in 'translationese' can all prompt reflection on the patterns (or grammar) of English, its quirks, its history, and its expressiveness. We shall consider such controversial issues as language variations in English (including dialects, accents, and style), changes in the language, grammar and its role, punctuation and the teaching of English. Participants will be invited to discuss these topics and short talks and lectures will also feature. Bill Bryson's book 'Mother Tongue' is recommended for this course, but it is not essential for participants to have a copy.

10 weeks from 3 May £64

5XEL10C18

### Poetry

Margaret Norwich

An opportunity to consider the sheer gorgeous power of poetry old and new, literary and popular, traditional and alternative, in a friendly group where everyone's contribution, and favourite poetry, is welcomed!

10 weeks from 3 May £54

5PO10C18

### Music Appreciation: The Mature Person's Guide to the Orchestra

John Dawson

A look at orchestral instruments family-by-family, and one-by-one.

The Symphony orchestra is one of the most amazing phenomena in Western culture. Originating in the courts of Europe, in the eighteenth Century, it is now everywhere from concert halls to film studios. Its popularity has been given another boost by computer technology which allows anyone to have a full orchestra in their own house.

Using a wider remit than Benjamin Britten and Eric Crozier, we will examine a little of the history and character of each instrument and hear examples of their uses in repertoire drawn from the whole gamut of Western Music from Haydn to Bernard Herrmann.

10 weeks from 3 May £64

5XMA10C18

## Friday Afternoons

### Latin III (12.30-1.30)

Jenny Morris

For details please see Autumn Term course description on page 17.

10 weeks from 3 May £32

5XLA10C18

### How the Rise & fall of the British Empire affected the Colonies/Countries in that Empire

Steve Lowe

History is told by the winners, so the saying goes. So the British Empire, the largest the world has seen, is mainly portrayed through British eyes. We will be looking at the colonies themselves, how they reacted to being part of an empire rather than independent countries, how they fought for independence and how they are faring in the world today.

10 weeks from 3 May £64

5XBE10C17

