

2010 Summer School 1

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SUMMER SCHOOL, CIRENCESTER

School 1 - Monday 16th to Thursday 19th August 2010

ARCHITECTURE – The Evolution of the English house Tutor: Wilson Briscoe

"Thanks, sir" cried I, "'tis very fine, but where do you sleep or where do you dine? I find by all you have been telling that 'tis a house but not a dwelling". Alexander Pope was clearly unimpressed by his visit to an uncomfortable new Blenheim Palace in 1726. About the same time Sir Edward Coke established a view that an Englishman's house was his castle. In 1927, Le Corbusier argued that a house was a 'machine for living in'!

These and many other disparate views about the function of the house form the background to our study of the evolution of the English House from Saxon to contemporary times. We will spend an afternoon in Cirencester, with a full day visiting Tetbury, Malmesbury and the late 17th century Dyrham House by Talman.

Level of ability: No previous knowledge is required. A suggested reading list will be issued later.
Teaching style: Talks, discussion, illustrated handouts and whiteboard drawing – no slides!

DRAMA – EXPERIMENTS IN THEATRE Tutor: Rosamund Hall

The course will involve discussion and acting out examples from four periods in the development of theatre

1) Greek 2) Shakespeare and contemporaries 3) late 19th century 4) 20th century.

We will compare styles of acting and direction in each period, noting the influence of buildings used and the power of playwrights. We may try using plain masks when acting Pinter to see how this 'Greek' treatment affects a playwright from the late 20th century. It would help if participants could bring any sort of mask that allows clear speech and vision. I will just bring cardboard to cut out.

Level of ability: This course is more about interest and confidence than ability. Participants should show a willingness to bend either shyness or natural talent to the service of the plays.
Teaching style: An initial short talk on each period followed by group involvement and discussion.

Participants will be asked to read beforehand 1) Medea by Euripedes 2) Twelfth Night by Shakespeare 3) Uncle Vanya by Chekhov 4) The Caretaker by Pinter. You should bring Twelfth Night and The Caretaker to the school. Scripts to be worked on at the school will be provided.

FRANCE – LA BELLE FRANCE Tutor: Joyce Gibson

This year's course, although similar in structure to last year's at Harper Adam's College, will stand alone and newcomers will be very welcome. Completely new materials and themes will be used, although Living French will again be used as a back-up reference book. We will again be exploring France through her literature, culture, history and geography and, using the French language whenever possible, will look at life now and as it was in the past. This Improver's course will include a half day exploring Cirencester through French eyes using role-play and pair-work. Definitely not to be missed! Participants will have fun with crosswords, puzzles, games and jokes and engage in discussions, debates, short playlets and enjoy several photographic tours of France.

Level of ability: Participants should have some knowledge of basic French, even if it is a little rusty. Complete beginners would only be acceptable if they are fairly fluent in a related modern or classical language. More fluent speakers may like to improve themselves by helping and encouraging others.

Teaching style: Working as a whole, in small groups and pairs, including role play. Each participant should bring a good English-French dictionary and a copy of Living French by TW Knight. Talk French (BBC) would also be useful (best prices probably from Amazon.co.uk).

HISTORY – Glimpses of 19th Century London Tutor: Peter Gamby

This new course will be a personal impression of some aspects of 19th century London complemented by students' input. The topics may include "The River", "Entertainment", "Buildings and Utilities", "The Poor", "Houses and Gardens". The 19th century was only a few generations ago and we will find much that influences our lives even now. Students' own work during the course in

discussion and workshops, will add new dimensions – for example through different interpretations of images and documents.

Level of ability: This course is only suitable for beginners.
Teaching style: The course will consist mainly of illustrated talks with some small group and discussion work for which additional resources will be provided (extra materials charge of up to £2 per person).

MAH JONG FOR BEGINNERS Tutor: Susan Fifer

Mah Jong is a fascinating mixture of strategy, skill and luck and, contrary to popular belief, is not difficult to learn. Many people have played Mah Jong in the past or have sets but are not sure how to play and may have found some handbooks have lost a lot in the translation from the original Chinese.

Level of ability: the course is for those who wish to learn Mah Jong, perhaps with the aim of setting up their own U3A group locally. If you have a Mah Jong set, you may wish to bring it but it is not essential.

Teaching style: the emphasis will be on practical play and participants will receive a full set of course materials on disk to use in their own U3A. These materials should enable a group to learn some of the basics themselves if no tutor is available or will be useful for anyone who has played Mah Jong a little and would like support in helping others to learn.

MAHLER – The Bridge to the 20th Century Tutor: Don Moore

Mahler is a pivotal figure in the history of music, and has become one of the most popular composers of our time. In 2010 we celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth. Justly regarded as opening the way to “modern” music, Mahler’s roots are nonetheless in the classical/romantic tradition, and the course will examine these influences on his music as well as his impact on subsequent musical developments. Beethoven, Bruckner and Wagner will figure as well as Berg, Benjamin Britten, Shostakovich and others.

Level of ability: All that is required is a love of music and perhaps a spirit of adventure. No technical musical expertise is necessary, but students should be prepared to engage in class discussion.

Teaching style: Presentations will focus on music (with copious examples) rather than formal ‘lectures’, but comment and discussion from the class will be an essential feature. A reading list will be supplied nearer the time and perhaps some recommended listening prior to the course.

PHILOSOPHY Justification of the State: An Introduction to Political Philosophy Tutor: Ed Link

An Introduction to Political Philosophy through an examination of two of the most important and influential texts ever to have been written, Thomas Hobbes's Leviathan and John Locke's Second Treatise of Government. These two works develop contrasting ideas of the role of the state and the nature of the citizen's obligations to obey it and importantly the limits to this obligation. These works are founded on what the authors believed to be the essential nature of man and of our moral obligations to each other. Participants will be guided through the essential arguments presented by both authors. The ideas presented in these works are still fresh and relevant in both domestic and international affairs. Participants will be asked to read selected extracts from the texts which will be provided.

Level of ability: No prior knowledge of philosophy is required. However the texts to be studied were written in the 17th century and contain some closely argued positions so they will require careful reading prior to attending the course.

Teaching style: Short introductory lectures and facilitated discussion of the texts with a consideration of the historical context and relevance to the present day.

POETRY- Off the Beaten Track: Poets with a Cotswolds Connection Tutor: Mary Jackson

This course will be appropriate for those who wish to extend and deepen their knowledge and appreciation of English poetry. We shall discuss to what extent context, whether historical or geographical, is relevant to the study of poetry. We shall look at poems from the works of Alexander Pope; George Crabbe; William Morris and the Kelmscott Poets; Gerard Manley Hopkins; W.H. Davies; John Masefield; Laurie Lee and U.A. Fanthorpe. We hope to visit Kelmscott House, Nailsworth and the Slad Valley. Copies of the poems to be studied will be provided.

Level of ability: Some knowledge of English poetry will be presumed, but not necessarily of the poets to be studied.

Teaching style: Sessions will begin with a spoken introduction, the poems will be distributed and

read by group members, then appreciation and discussion will take place, with contributions from all welcome

PSYCHOLOGY - Understanding Human Behaviour Tutor: Anne Dale

We tend to take for granted our understanding of how we humans function yet it is the outcome of complex interaction between biology and our social environment and the constant interplay of thinking, feeling and behavior. Different approaches within psychology have tended to emphasise different aspects of this and we will look at the contribution of some of these to our understanding of what makes people tick, including some of the most influential theories and classic studies.

Level of ability: Suitable for anyone interested in their fellow humans.
Teaching style: There will be some short presentations of theory and research, including use of overhead projector slides, group discussion and other activities to encourage participation.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – Lasers, Secret Messaging and The Science of Photography

Tutors: Peter Rockwell, Susan Slater and John Marriage

The tutors, led by Peter Rockwell, will explore the following subjects:

Susan Slater - Secret messaging. Susan will explore the use, techniques and technologies behind cryptology leading to the machines devised and used in the 1940s.

John Marriage - Capturing Light - the Science of Photography. John will expose the physics, chemistry and engineering that have made photography work, from alchemy to chemistry, and optics to digits.

Peter Rockwell - Lasers and their applications. Peter will describe what lasers are, their history, how they are manufactured and what they are used for.

The tutors will each teach for two or three sessions and in addition there will be a visit to a place of scientific or technological interest.

Level of ability: Suitable for anyone with an interest in science or technology. You do not need to be a scientist, technologist or a 'geek'.
Teaching style: A mixture of lectures and demonstrations with the active participation of course members.

SINGING – FOR PLEASURE Tutor: Ursula Steiger

Singing is good for you! This course provides an opportunity for those who like to sing and those who think they might, to explore the joy of singing together. The music will be eclectic. We shall sing accompanied and a cappella, in unison and harmony and we will learn to expand our voices. We will also cover some very basic music theory.

Level of ability: Suitable for all who can sing a simple melody in tune. All are welcome, but please state your experience, voice level and musical preference on your application form.
Teaching style: We will explore the pleasure of the human voice – listening, learning and singing.

COSTS FOR COMPLETE SUMMER SCHOOL INCLUDING A WELCOME RECEPTION ON THE FIRST DAY FOR ALL DELEGATES

Full board residential delegate in en-suite accommodation	£305.00 per person
Non-residential day delegate including lunches	£116.00 per person
DEPOSIT	£70.00 per person

Additional notes:

- Details of any preliminary reading/book lists, materials required will be sent nearer the time.
- Coach outings/entry charges (architecture, France, poetry, science & technology).

There will be an additional charge of approximately £12-£15 per person payable to your tutor at the opening seminar. You will be notified how much to bring before the School starts.

- Please contact National Office, not the College, if you have any questions about summer school or about a particular course.

Please read Booking Notes before completing application form