

2010 Summer School 2

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SUMMER SCHOOL, CIRENCESTER

School 2 Monday 23rd to Thursday 26th August 2010

ART HISTORY - "Look upon this picture and on this " Tutor: Ralph Blumenau

Most of the course will compare how different artists, or the same artist at different times, have treated the same subject in Western painting - for example different ways of depicting the Annunciation, landscapes and seascapes, portraiture, still life etc. This will involve a discussion of the religious, philosophical, personal or art-historical reasons for this. At the end there will be a section which will explore the depiction of children in painting.

Level of ability: Suitable for all levels of ability.

Teaching style: Lectures, with opinions constantly invited throughout.

CINEMA HISTORY - A Brief History of Film Since The Second World War Tutor: Alan Coulson

This course refutes French director François Truffaut's claim that there is a certain incompatibility between the terms "cinema" and "British". I shall give an overview of British cinema during the latter half of the 20th century using numerous film extracts and interviews with film makers and commentators. Illustrations will be drawn from a variety of British film genres: thriller, comedy, documentary, war film, social realism, costume drama, etc. This course is an adaptation of the one given in 2009. In the light of feedback it covers less ground (omitting the earlier years of the 20th century).

Level of ability: Suitable for all. No previous knowledge required, though welcome if it is present. A love of films is the only pre-requisite.

Teaching style: Presentation of film extracts and interviews, with questions and discussion.

COMPUTING WORKSHOP Tutor: Chris Powell

The course is aimed at PC users with some experience (not beginners) covering a variety of subjects decided by the attendees. These could include, but not be limited to WP, Excel, general housekeeping, Internet & PC music, filing systems & Windows Explorer. Actual content will be decided via an email vote prior to the school. The group will be very interactive with plenty of opportunity for discussion of individual problems. The course is not hands-on but extensive notes will be made available prior to the school via the internet and there will be plenty of demonstrations throughout.

Level of ability: This course is aimed at individuals who are 'comfortable' with their PCs but would like to know more about different aspects of their usage. The course is not suitable for beginners.

Teaching style: seminar style - interaction strongly encouraged. There is no need to bring any computer equipment.

GEOLOGY - the history of building stones Tutor: Isabel Markham

This course will study the different materials used for buildings from the Romans to the present day. We shall see how the local geology influences the buildings and, by handling the different rocks, we can learn about their structure and origins. A knowledge of the materials used gives added interest to the study of our ancient buildings. There will be a day visit to the classic areas of Jurassic limestones with time to study the building stones in Cirencester. The course will be of historical and architectural interest as well as geological.

Level of ability: Suitable for beginners but of interest to all. Those interested in architecture would be welcome. A small hand lens will be useful for looking at rocks.

Teaching style: lectures, practical handling of rocks, visits to Cirencester and Gloucester.

LATIN AMERICAN SPANISH - language and culture Tutor: Sylvia Sussmann

The course will convey something of the literature and the culture of Latin America through reading and translating short stories where it is a very important genre. Whilst the level of Spanish required to appreciate and read the short stories in the original is fairly high (at least A-level) the use of parallel texts or my own translations should obviate this requirement without detracting from understanding the ideas and the cultural values behind the stories. In the course of reading, translating and discussion, it will be possible to incorporate some grammatical issues and undertake some attempt at

conversing. The extent to which this can be done will depend on the background of the participants. The course will be based on the one presented in 2009, and will try to build on that experience, while providing completely different materials.

Level of ability: Interest in Latin American culture and some knowledge of Spanish. Different levels can be accommodated by the use of bilingual texts or translations, though the Spanish original will always be provided with the translation.

Teaching style: Short initial presentations but mostly a seminar environment actively encouraging student participation.

LITERATURE – Three Untypical Novels Tutor: Michael Goldman

Henry James and Edith Wharton were close friends and usually wrote about the high society in which they moved but they were more versatile than even some of their admirers may believe. Wharton's *Ethan Frome* (1911) is a tragic love story set in wintry rural New England while *Summer* (1917) is an equally intense treatment of thwarted love in a different season. James's *The Bostonians* (1886) deals with the contemporary social issues of feminism and lesbianism in the town he knew so well. Although the subject matter is untypical in each case, all three books show the writers at the top of their literary form: *Ethan Frome* and *Summer* are full of vivid descriptions of both scenery and character while *The Bostonians* is stylistically very approachable middle period James with none of the obscurity of his later work. All three are available in paperback and the Wharton novels are comparatively short.

Level of ability: Students need to be interested in reading fiction and to be prepared to take part in reading and discussion of the texts. Some familiarity with other works by the two authors would be an advantage but is not essential. What is essential is that participants should have read all three texts before coming to Cirencester. Participants will need to bring copies of the three novels to the school.

Teaching style: The tutor will introduce the two authors and their work but most of the time will be spent in reading and discussion of the texts.

MUSIC APPRECIATION - Staging the Ring Tutor: John Busbridge

Wagner's mammoth operatic tetralogy *Der Ring des Niebelungen* is a work of astounding genius, and is of universal and timeless significance. It presents an enormous challenge to singers, conductors, players, designers and stage directors alike. We shall consider four contrasted productions on DVD, concentrating on a limited number of crucial scenes, and the way in which directors and singers portray and develop the major characters and their interrelationships through the cycle.

Level of ability: To benefit from this course participants should have some knowledge of Wagner's Ring cycle and its music and, preferably, some experience of seeing a production, in the theatre or on video.

Teaching style: DVD presentation with introductions and discussion.

PHILOSOPHY – Thoughts about visual art Tutor: Meg Shaw

We shall explore our own attitudes to creativity, with particular reference to visual art, paying attention to the maker, the process, the artefact and the recipient. There are no set texts but reading any good history of art and essays on aesthetics would be useful preparation e.g; *The History of Art*, Ernst Gombrich any edition, *On Beauty*, Umberto Eco 2004, *Philosophical Aesthetics* Oswald Hanfling 1992.

Level of ability: No experience is necessary though all is welcome.

Teaching style: The course will be a mix of presentation and discussion.

POETRY – Three Priest-Poets Tutor: Beth Butler

We shall explore ten poems by each of three poets who are also priests. The poetry tells us about the poets, their faith, their parishioners and their relationship to their own times.

George Herbert: after the Elizabethan Settlement and just before the Puritan revolution he became an Anglican parish priest.

Gerard Manley Hopkins: after the *laissez-faire* and increasing secularization of the 18th century, the Tractarian movement rediscovered the Catholic element in Anglicanism. Hopkins was born a high Anglican, joined the Roman Catholic church and became a Jesuit priest.

R. S. Thomas: in the 20th century faith was no longer easy or absolute, as secularism became rampant. Thomas, an Anglican priest who resented not being a Welsh speaker, is a puzzling figure.

Level of ability: Suitable for anyone who enjoys poetry and has a basic knowledge of the Anglican church's history.

Teaching style: Lectures with reading and discussion. The tutor will provide a reading guide.

STORYTELLING ORAL Tutor: Stella Porter

People have always told and listened to stories, long before the written word. Stories have been told and shared by every culture in every land, not only as a means of historical record, but as a form of education and to promote ethnic values. Our forefathers told of important happenings, events and folk lore. To this day Storytelling remains one of the most ancient and magical art forms. Telling stories develops confidence, creativity and your imagination. Sessions will include voice and memory exercises and include group-work. You will be introduced to, and have a chance to practise, the basic techniques of storytelling.

Level of ability: The course is for both storytellers and beginners, in which you can expect to feel motivated, inspired and challenged (but only as much as you choose, no-one will be "put on the spot"). The tutor is an experienced storyteller and workshop leader.

Teaching style: We aim to work in groups, interacting with each other, exchanging ideas, suggestions and importantly explore the style of telling a story that best suits you. Be prepared to stretch your boundaries, have lots of fun and absorb the magic of storytelling.

WRITING 'Using Our Lives for Fact or Fiction' Tutor: Maggie Smith

Our lives provide material for fiction – (though not libellous) – as well as memoirs. Participants may choose to write fact or fiction – ideas will be offered for both. For those concentrating on memoirs we will consider points like: what do we include, leave out? Who will read them? Might someone be upset by things we reveal? Work in progress is welcomed

Level of ability: Suitable for those with some experience of creative writing. Those completely new to creative writing may prefer a theme with a more basic approach.

Teaching style: We normally work in small groups and alone, with ample time to write, gain feedback, read aloud. We will not be using laptops.

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 (geology). 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