

Course details

Course title

Literature: Rediscovering Women Authors: Two comic novels by Stella Gibbons

Course code

Q00013753

Course date

Start: 06/06/24

End: 11/07/24

Number of classes

6 sessions

Timetable

Thu 6th Jun, 11:00 to 13:00

Thu 13th Jun, 11:00 to 13:00

Thu 20th Jun, 11:00 to 13:00

Thu 27th Jun, 11:00 to 13:00

Thu 4th Jul, 11:00 to 13:00

Thu 11th Jul, 11:00 to 13:00

Tutor

Kim Shahabudin

Fee range

Free to £44.40

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Advanced

Course overview

In this course we will read and discuss two books by Stella Gibbons, an author whose reputation as a comic writer rests on one well-known satire of popular novels about rural life: *Cold Comfort Farm* (1932). In fact she wrote more than 30 novels, though most have been out of print until recently. We will be focusing on two of Gibbons' comic novels with contrasting settings: rural Sussex in *Cold Comfort Farm* and suburban Hampstead in *Westwood* (1946). Through friendly and accessible discussions of both texts, we will learn more about their stories, characters and themes, and consider the nature of their author's distinctive comic voice.

Course description

In this course we will read and discuss two books by Stella Gibbons, an author whose reputation rests on one well-known satire of popular novels about rural life: *Cold Comfort Farm* (1932). In fact she wrote more than 30 novels, though most have been out of print until recently.

We will be focusing on two of Gibbons' comic novels with contrasting settings: rural Sussex in *Cold Comfort Farm* and suburban Hampstead in *Westwood* (1946). Adapted for both radio and television, *Cold Comfort Farm* is a satirical response to fashionable doom-laden rural writers like Mary Webb. In contrast, *Westwood* takes post-war suburban London and its inhabitants as its setting for satire; Lynne Truss notes in the introduction that "If *Cold Comfort Farm* is Stella Gibbons's *Pride and Prejudice*, then *Westwood* is her *Persuasion*."

Through friendly and accessible discussions of both texts, we will learn more about their stories, characters and themes, and consider the nature of their author's distinctive comic voice. While you will get the most from the course by reading the books in their entirety, short extracts for discussion will be downloadable from Canvas, where links to further reading will also be provided for those who wish to extend their learning.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government

funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

Source URL: <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/languages-culture/literature/6-june-literature-rediscovering-women-authors-two-comic-novels>