

Course details

Course title

History: The English Renaissance

Course code

Q00017453

Course date

Start: 17/09/24

End: 26/11/24

Number of classes

10 sessions

Timetable

Tue 17th Sep, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 24th Sep, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 1st Oct, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 8th Oct, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 15th Oct, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 22nd Oct, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 5th Nov, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 12th Nov, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 19th Nov, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 26th Nov, 19:00 to 21:00

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £74.00

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

Beginners

Course overview

This course will introduce a fascinating period of English history, during which poetry, prose and the arts produced some of the touchstones of British culture. We will explore a range of poetry including Thomas Wyatt's, love poetry, Raleigh's verse, Edmund Spenser's homage to Elizabeth I, John Donne's astonishing poems of love and divinity, and Milton's early poems; playwrights, Shakespeare and Marlowe, and prose writers such as Tyndale and his translations from the Bible, Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer and extracts from the King James' Bible. Additional context for the period will be provided from paintings, contemporary documents and letters. All texts will be provided on Canvas.

Course description

The era of the English Renaissance marks the transition from the late Mediaeval period to the early Modern period. This era is one of profound change, politically, socially, economically and culturally.

We will explore why the Renaissance came late to Britain, and how it imports Humanism. We will discover how the new sciences and the Protestant Reformation are both products of the Renaissance, and engines which drive further change politically and culturally.

Within this period of flux, the English language itself was

evolving dramatically from Middle English towards the forms of English still spoken today. We will account for this change, and explore how these changes animate poets, playwrights and prose writers. Our study of literary texts will open more questions concerning cultural practices and beliefs in our era. Indeed, we shall see how the English language itself becomes contentious, involved in the development of propaganda in news-sheets and pamphleteering. Both news-sheets and pamphlets were illustrated with woodcuts, and we will explore the iconography of such images.

Supporting our explorations and discoveries regarding the English Renaissance, we will discuss the art of portrait painting and its significance politically, and touch briefly upon music in the period both in court, church and the broader community.

A particular focus of the course will be the discovery of women's voices (poets and prose writers) demonstrating how vital these voices are to a complete appreciation of the English Renaissance.

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/humanities-science/history/17-september-history-english-renaissance>