

Course details

Course title

Literature: Ann Radcliffe to Jane Austen - Female Gothic and Literary Homage

Course code

Q00016876

Course date

Start: 29/04/25

End: 10/06/25

Number of classes

7 sessions

Timetable

Tue 29th Apr, 14:30 to 16:30

Tue 6th May, 14:30 to 16:30

Tue 13th May, 14:30 to 16:30

Tue 20th May, 14:30 to 16:30

Tue 27th May, 14:30 to 16:30

Tue 3rd Jun, 14:30 to 16:30

Tue 10th Jun, 14:30 to 16:30

Tutor

Greta Depledge

Fee range

Free to £50.40

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes at the venue indicated. Some materials may be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

In venue

Venue

Exeter Community Centre (Exeter)
17 St. Davids Hill
Exeter
EX4 3RG

Level of study

Intermediate

Course overview

This short course will provide the opportunity to study two novels by female authors that are thoughtfully connected in the minds of many people despite being published 26 years apart by two very different authors. Throughout *Northanger Abbey* Jane Austen makes many references to Ann Radcliffe's classic gothic novel *The Mysteries of Udolpho*. These two novels, then, are connected in the minds of many readers and this course will provide the opportunity of looking at these two novels side-by-side. We will begin with Radcliffe's 1794 novel *The Mysteries of Udolpho* and then look at Austen's much loved *Northanger Abbey*, published posthumously in 1817.

Course description

This course will provide the opportunity of bringing together two novels that are connected in the minds of many readers. Jane Austen's heroine, Catherine Morland in *Northanger Abbey*, is very fond of reading gothic novels and one novel that she is particularly captivated by is Ann Radcliffe's 1794 novel *The Myseries of Udolpho*. In *Northanger Abbey* Austen provides a gentle, satirical look at the power of gothic fiction and the dangers of young girls wanting their lives to mirror the lives of a gothic heroine.

We will start the course, then, with a study of the source text that engages Catherine Morland so and spend the first few weeks looking at *The Mysteries of Udolpho* before moving on to *Northanger Abbey*. By considering the two texts we will be able to appreciate not only how good the gothic writing of Radcliffe is but also better appreciate the wit and humour that Austen provides in her novel. We will also gain a better knowledge of just how much Austen understood the workings of gothic fiction. The satire is aimed more at the undiscerning reader rather than gothic fiction itself. In order to write *Northanger Abbey* it is clear that Austen understood the genre of gothic fiction very well and could see exactly how it worked in order to capture the imaginations of its readers.

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.

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