

Course details

Course title

British Novels in the 70s and 80s (Part 1)

Course code

Q00017363

Course date

Start: 25/09/24

End: 04/12/24

Number of classes

10 sessions

Timetable

Wed 25th Sep, 14:15 to 16:15

Wed 2nd Oct, 14:15 to 16:15

Wed 9th Oct, 14:15 to 16:15

Wed 16th Oct, 14:15 to 16:15

Wed 23rd Oct, 14:15 to 16:15

Wed 6th Nov, 14:15 to 16:15

Wed 13th Nov, 14:15 to 16:15

Wed 20th Nov, 14:15 to 16:15

Wed 27th Nov, 14:15 to 16:15

Wed 4th Dec, 14:15 to 16:15

Branch

Barnes

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £100.00

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

Rose House (London)
70 Barnes High Street
London
SW13 9LD

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

This course will consider and analyse the following authors and their texts. These are: Magnus - George Mackay Brown. Border Country - Raymond Williams. They - Kay Dick. Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy - John Le Carre. Waterland - Graham Swift. These texts will provide a window into the different regions of Britain during two decades of major change in the social fabric and political nature of Britain, though several of our texts will trace these changes back to the earlier part of the twentieth century, and in doing so, we will encounter themes of identity, class and the decline of Empire. There will be much to prompt discussion and challenge our assumptions.

Course description

"Our first text Magnus by the late Orcadian poet and novelist

George Mackay Brown will introduce us to a voice of urgent

lyricism, which shifts between the early Middle Ages in

Orkney and the Nazi regime. It is a text about faith,

community and the need for storytelling as a means to

confront life through myth. This saga will flow naturally into

Raymond Williams' novel Border Country, which traces the

changes in class affiliations in a Welsh working class community. Again it is about the need to relate history. When we encounter Kay Dick's *They*, a rediscovered minor classic, we will be confronted by a vision of a very English dystopia, centred about issues of censorship and control, which is a vision of modern iconoclasm.

Le Carre's work, *Tinker, Tailor, Solider, Spy* will introduce us to Britain in decline, set against the backdrop of espionage, but it is more than this, being a true condition of England novel. We will evaluate Le Carre's position as a major novelist of the second part of the century.

We will conclude by picking up theme of storytelling again in Graham Swift's *Waterland*, a haunting meditation on the nature of history itself."

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/25-september-british-novels-70s-and-80s-part-1>