



Course details

Course title

Literature: Six great novels you can read in six weeks

Course code

Q00018501

Course date

Start: 16/09/24

End: 25/11/24

Number of classes

6 sessions

Timetable

Mon 16th Sep, 10:30 to 12:30

Mon 30th Sep, 10:30 to 12:30

Mon 14th Oct, 10:30 to 12:30

Mon 28th Oct, 10:30 to 12:30

Mon 11th Nov, 10:30 to 12:30

Mon 25th Nov, 10:30 to 12:30

Branch

Bromley Central

Tutor

Brandon Robshaw

Fee range

Free to £60.00

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

Methodist Church Hall (Beckenham)
Bromley Road
Beckenham
BR3 5JE

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

Reading short texts is an excellent introduction to the works of some of the greatest writers of the western canon. Each week we focus on a short classic novel, reading and discussing key passages. The selected novels are in chronological order, from the 18th century to modern times. We begin with *Candide* and end with *The Ballad of the Sad Café*. We'll be able to share and debate interpretations, sharpen our critical and appreciative faculties, understand what fiction can tell us about the society and culture that produced it, and, hopefully, be inspired to read other works by the writers featured on the course.

Course description

Over the six weeks you'll take part in lively discussions, analysing and interpreting great works of short fiction. To understand literature, we need to engage with it on three levels: our own personal response to it as a work of art; an attempt to understand the preoccupations, aims and agenda of the writer, as illuminated by their biography; and an enquiry into what it can tell us the wider culture and society that produced it. Each class starts with a short lecture from the tutor, putting the work in its historical and cultural context; we then read selected passages and explore all three levels. Be prepared for plenty of (good-natured) disagreement. The novels under discussion are: *Candide* by Voltaire; *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll; *First Love* by Ivan Turgenev; *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad; *Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger; and *The Ballad of the Sad Café* by Carson McCullers. Most of these texts are available free online, and selected passages will be posted on Canvas before each session. A course for everyone who loves literature and talking about literature. And of course tea and biscuits feature in every class.

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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