

Course details

Course title

History: Samuel Pepys – Plague, Fire and Scandal

Course code

Q00018506

Course date

Start: 08/01/25

End: 19/03/25

Number of classes

10 sessions

Timetable

Wed 8th Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Wed 15th Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Wed 22nd Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Wed 29th Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Wed 5th Feb, 10:00 to 12:00

Wed 12th Feb, 10:00 to 12:00

Wed 26th Feb, 10:00 to 12:00

Wed 5th Mar, 10:00 to 12:00

Wed 12th Mar, 10:00 to 12:00

Wed 19th Mar, 10:00 to 12:00

Branch

Reigate Branch

Tutor

Kate Antoniou

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 10-week course explores the life and times of Samuel Pepys, focusing on his diaries that provide an unparalleled view of 17th-century England. Through Pepys' meticulous documentation, we will delve into the reign of Charles II, the devastation of the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London, and everyday life during the Restoration period. Including the numerous scandals at court and Pepys's own behaviour! This course will offer insights into the personal, social, and political landscapes of the time, revealing how one man's observations can illuminate an entire era marked by dramatic events and profound changes.

Course description

Join us for this history course when we will journey back to Restoration England (from 1660 to 1669) using the vivid descriptions within Samuel Pepys's diary as our guide. The diary and other contemporary and modern sources will help us to imagine this tumultuous period in history. The pandemic and perhaps other recent events giving it more resonance now. We will explore issues such as the plague, the outbreak and spread of the Great Plague in London, what the public health response was and also of course what Pepys's first-hand account tells us. Just a year later of course Pepys's diary moves on to give us a superb account of the Great Fire of London and his interactions with the authorities to try and ensure that it is brought under control. Throughout the course we will use Pepys's observation of everyday life and examine the social structures, fashion, entertainment and cultural practices of the time and also investigate the political and personal scandals of the Restoration Period. Other primary sources and more recent research will help us understand how Pepys with a modest background managed to achieve the role he did and flourish in the period.

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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