

Course details

Course title

Literature: Reading Boris Pasternak, J.L. Carr and Helen Dunmore

Course code

Q00017320

Course date

Start: 30/09/24

End: 09/12/24

Fee:

Free

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

During this course, we will begin our discussion with a Russian classic, *Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak. This 1957 novel was first published in Italy. It was not published in Russia until 1988. We will be thinking about the way Boris Pasternak presents the political and societal events of his lifetime. Do these scenes and ideas resonate in only a historical sense? Later on in the course we will move on to *Zennor in Darkness*, Helen Dunmore's 1996 Orange Prize winning novel to think about her portrayal of World War one Cornwall and DH Lawrence, as we continue our discussion about the way fiction translates the past.

Course description

We will be discussing the unabridged version of *Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak. There are several translations. The three main ones are: Max Hayward and Manya Harari; Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, and the most recent, by Nicolas Pasternak Slater. Any of these will be suitable, as one of the things we will be thinking about is the impact translators have on our reading experience. It is probable that most of us will be more familiar with the 1965 film than the text. We will consider how that connects to our reading experience, too.

This is a big novel, about a big moment, with an appropriately large cast of characters. We will discuss it in chronological sections, tracking events and thinking about how they work.

Helen Dunmore's *Zennor in Darkness* should offer an interesting contrast. We will think about the way she translates the past, and look at key features of style, characterisation and content.

Both authors were poets, so we will also consider the ways that might be reflected in their prose.

The tutor will provide a reading schedule, but please read to the end of chapter 2, *A Girl from a Different World*, for discussion at the first session.

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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