



Course details

Course title

Literature: Some Short Stories by Anton Chekhov

Course code

Q00019289

Course date

Start: 24/09/24

End: 22/10/24

Number of classes

5 sessions

Timetable

Tue 24th Sep, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 1st Oct, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 8th Oct, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 15th Oct, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 22nd Oct, 10:30 to 12:30

Branch

Danbury and Little Baddow

Tutor

Adrian Eckersley

Fee range

Free to £42.00

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

URC (Danbury)
Little Baddow Road
Danbury
CM3 4NS

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

Chekhov found the nineteenth century novel form too ponderous: he wrote fiction, not novels, and everything he wrote, even in his teenage years, was rushed into publication. Through this single volume selection of his stories we explore the power of this meteoric phenomenon. NB the title of this course is a book title, and access to this book, translated by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, published by Penguin and Vintage, is a necessary starting-point. We shall divide the book into roughly equal sections and study them week by week. Mostly the stories will be read in preparation for the classes, and the central activity of the course will be our own appraisal, through close discussion, of the meaning and suggestion of the individual stories, both as this affects us and as it may have affected the original reader. Since the stories are chronologically arranged, this will allow us a broad focus on Chekhov's development as a writer of prose narrative.

Course description

Basic response to Chekhov's narratives will involve study of how they invite us to 'take sides' and how they steer our readerly responses to characters and situations. Because Chekhov is a major and fairly recent writer, these matters are likely to position us within debates and controversies relevant to our own culture, and we must be alive to these as well as concerning ourselves with the matter of how Chekhov's original readers will have understood them. Is it really true that Chekhov's eschewing of the novel was in the name of greater freedom, and if so how do we sense this in these stories? Through the shaping of the stories we may grasp broader ideological concerns, which we are likely to understand as humanitarian and liberal as well as, just perhaps, revolutionary. At the outer margin of our reading lies the tragic matter of Russian history, and this will be brought in as it becomes relevant. Our broadest concern will be to study how a writer's work may interact with history, and the kind of possibilities this might enable.

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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