



## Course details

### Course title

British Literature in the 1950s

### Course code

Q00017886

### Course date

Start: 13/01/25

End: 24/03/25

### Number of classes

10 sessions

### Timetable

Mon 13th Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Mon 20th Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Mon 27th Jan, 10:00 to 12:00

Mon 3rd Feb, 10:00 to 12:00

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

Mon 24th Feb, 10:00 to 12:00

Mon 3rd Mar, 10:00 to 12:00

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

Mon 17th Mar, 10:00 to 12:00

Mon 24th Mar, 10:00 to 12:00

### Tutor

Stephen Smith

### 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**

In this course we will discuss and analyse the following authors and their works. These are: Look Back in Anger - John Osborne. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie - Muriel Spark. The Vet's Daughter - Barbara Comyns. A Voice Through A Cloud - Denton Welch. A Kind of Loving - Stan Barstow. These texts are an eclectic blend of plays, novels and the autobiographical in the case of Denton Welch, an eccentric and now largely forgotten. There will be great scope for discussion and the voicing of opinions, and you will be encouraged to develop your own theories and interpretations in a supportive atmosphere.

## **Course description**

The 1950s is a seminal decade in twentieth century British history, which saw Britain adjusting to the legacy of the Second World War and the decline of Empire on a global scale. On the domestic front, change was no less seminal, as the traditional structures of society, the patriarchy and class hierarchies came under increased pressure. Many of our texts chart the changes in the position of the working class, women's newly enfranchised and emancipated roles and the problems associated with mass culture and consumerism. Osborne's play Look Back in Anger takes us inside many of these political and social changes, being both new and innovative and yet tinged with nostalgia, a nostalgia which will inform the voice of Barbara Comyns' neglected novel, The Vet's Daughter, an early Virago classic, and strange and haunting oneiric tale. This oneiric quality will also be in evidence in Denton Welch's work A Voice Through a Cloud. The era brought new voices into play and we will observe this in Muriel Spark, and we will reassess the position of the familiar text, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, before we conclude with an analysis of the urgent voice of the working class voiced by Stan Barstow's text.

## **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/13-january-british-literature-1950s>