



Course details

Course title

Literature: British Novels of the 1950s

Course code

Q00019917

Course date

Start: 29/01/25

End: 12/03/25

Number of classes

6 sessions

Timetable

Wed 29th Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 5th Feb, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 12th Feb, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 26th Feb, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 5th Mar, 14:00 to 16:00

Wed 12th Mar, 14:00 to 16:00

Branch

Barnet

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

Wesley Hall (Barnet)
High Barnet Methodist Church
9 Stapylton Road
Barnet
EN5 4JJ

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

The 1950s saw exciting new developments in the British novel; a more democratic postwar spirit is in evidence and many new, influential writers make their first appearance. We begin with Barbara Pym's *Excellent Women*, and end with Alan Sillitoe's *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*. 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. This course is funded by Greater London Combined Authority.

Course description

Over the six weeks you'll take part in lively discussions, analysing and interpreting great works of 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: *Excellent Women* by Barbara Pym; *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding; *Lucky Jim* by Kingsley Amis; *The Long View* by Elizabeth Jane Howard; *The Bell* by Iris Murdoch; and *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* by Alan Sillitoe. 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.

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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/29-january-literature-british-novels-1950s>