



English Summer School Timetable 2012

Day 1

10.30 Introduction and welcome

10.45 Critical approaches: historicism

The session introduces three main strands of literary historicism – Marxism, New Historicism and Cultural Materialism. Students will be asked to apply these theories to close reading of some unseen texts and discuss their views.

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Critical approaches: death of the author

In this session students will have the opportunity to explore the relationships between the author, reader and the text itself. Questions to think about will include: Is it possible to arrive at a 'correct' textual interpretation? Can we ever understand the authors intended meaning?

15.00 Critical approaches: feminism

This class will introduce feminist theory and give students the opportunity to examine broader issues including the ways in which writers have constructed images of women, womanhood and femininity; and the tradition of women's writing.

16.30 Close

Day 2

10.30 Introduction to Middle English

What is Middle English? This session will introduce 'Old' English and give students the opportunity to explore the language and pronunciation through close reading of some unseen passages.

11:45 Gender in medieval literature

Through close reading and discussion of extracts, students will be invited to question how medieval discussions of gender measure up to contemporary conceptions of male heroism and idealised femininity; and what male and female voices in Middle English texts suggest about sex, power, and beauty.

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Shakespeare

We will be attending a Shakespeare performance at the Globe Theatre (details to be announced once the Globe's 2012 programme is available) and this session will focus on that play.

16.30 Close

Day 3

10.30 Romantics Lecture

This university style lecture will introduce students to Romantic theory of art and of poetic language and practice, as well as historicising their ideas and works.

11.00 Wordsworth and the lyrical ballads

This session will explore the life and work of Wordsworth, introducing students to his poetry and examining the extent to which Wordsworth's poetic practice exemplifies his theory

12.15 Romanticism, Creativity and Religion

This session aims to explore the associations between Romanticism, creativity and religion. Topics to consider may include: the creative process as the subject of writing. How do writers engage with religion and/or the supernatural? Is too much credit given to imagination?

13.15 Lunch

14.15 Modernism Lecture

This lecture will place literary modernism in its historical, cultural and artistic context. In particular students will be encouraged to see modernism as a reaction to historical events/change and in relation to new directions in painting and sculpture.

15.00 Pound and Imagism

This seminar will introduce students to the theory and practice of 'Imagism', and the life and work of Ezra Pound through close reading and discussion of extracts.

16.30 Close

Day 4

10.30 19th Century novels

This session will focus on the 19th Century novel, specifically examining sensation and/or detective fiction from the period, through an exploration of extracts and class discussion.

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Joyce and consciousness

This seminar will introduce students to the works James Joyce, and invite them to discuss and contrast the evolution of Joyce's writing, as well as the notion of the 'stream of consciousness' technique.

14.45 Contemporary poetry

In this session students will be asked to read a range of contemporary poetry focusing on the issues of memory and commemoration - a central theme of writing, literature, and philosophy in the late twentieth and early twenty first century. Students will also be asked to explore the difference between a photographic image and a poetic image.

16.30 Close

Day 5

10.30 Defence of Literature

This final session will draw the Summer School together by asking students to develop awareness and understanding of the reasons that literature has aroused hostility or suspicion, and discuss how writers respond to changing expectations of literature and the need to justify their art. In particular, we will explore the relation of literary to non-literary writing, the evolving notions of literary creativity, the role of the poetic imagination and questions surrounding the moral responsibility of fiction i.e. the author's capacity to improve, corrupt or offend his readership.

12.30 Coach to the Globe

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Globe Theatre Performance: Details to be Confirmed

16.30 Round up, certificates