



A National Event open to all U3A Members - Our 16th Annual Summer School

SUMMER SCHOOL AT HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY, NEWPORT nr TELFORD
Monday 14th July to Thursday 17th July 2014

Please book early

ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS OF THE AMERICAS

Tutor: Maria Chester

Why study the cultural history of the Americas? We will find out together after travelling with our imagination thousands of years back to the remote New World where the most fabulous civilisations developed and vanished. Two regions were the cradle of advanced civilisations: Mesoamerica and Peru. From Mesoamerica we will study the Olmec, the Maya, the Toltec and the Aztecs. From Peru and its surroundings we will explore the origin of astronomy in Chankillo and the oldest city in the Americas, Caral. We will study coastal cultures such as: Paracas, Nazca, Moche, and Chimú and follow Peruvian archaeologists in their quest and visit the tomb of “the Lord of Sipán”, where tons of gold were found. From the central Andes we will explore Chavín, Tiwanaku and Wari and finish with the Inca Empire, the greatest political achievement of the Americas until it was interrupted by the Spanish conquistadores.

Level of ability: This course is suitable for all.

Teaching style: Seminars with discussions. An optional reading list will be sent in advance.

CANAL HISTORY

The rise, decline and rise again of the canals

Tutor: Peter Brown

We will explore the history of the canals of England & Wales showing how and why they developed, the effects of railway and road competition and how they have been saved from closure. It will be extensively illustrated and include local case studies and visits to nearby interesting sites. We will also look at engineering aspects such as tunnels, aqueducts, locks and lifts in Britain and in Europe.

Level of ability: No prior knowledge necessary, but the course should appeal to all those interested in the history of the ‘industrial revolution’ and the vital contribution made by the canals. The course should also be of interest to boat owners and hirers who wish to know more about the network.

Teaching style: Mainly illustrated talks with discussion. Half-day outing to Longdon Aqueduct (the first iron aqueduct), guillotine locks (rare on a canal), Wappenshall Junction (a remarkably preserved inland port), and other local sites. **See additional notes on page 4.**

CINEMA HISTORY

Lights, Camera, Action! Celebrating 100 years of Hollywood

Tutor: Alan Coulson

Pioneer film makers moved to California in search of sunshine, cheap land and labour. They settled in Hollywood, a rural suburb of Los Angeles. Employing a variety of film extracts, interviews with key personnel and comments from film historians, we outline the birth and growth of American cinema; the evolution of the craft and technology of film production; the rise (and fall) of the ‘dream factories’; the ‘moguls’ who ran them and the directors, stars and technicians employed in them. We shall consider the glamour and the power struggles, the tension between culture and commerce and the eventual emergence of a new, more independent, generation of film makers.

Level of ability: Suitable for all. A love of films is the only pre-requisite.

Teaching style: Presentation of film extracts, interviews and commentary (about ⅔ of the time) with questions and discussion (about ⅓).

CREATIVE WRITING**Bestseller – or Man Booker shortlist?****Tutor: Maggie Smith**

Are you seeking a nudge to help you finish – or even to begin – your novel or memoirs? Spend three days exploring ways to experiment with novel and life-story writing. The course will include such aspects as plot, character, setting and style. We may even progress towards an ending, plus discussion of synopses and alternative ways to publish. Enjoy space and time for writing, sharing ideas, reading work aloud and gaining helpful feedback in a supportive setting. Feel free to bring work in progress and any books you have found useful.

Level of ability: Previous experience of writing will be useful. Laptops not required.

Teaching style: We work in large and small groups and alone, with brief tutor input, discussion, handouts and an opportunity for individual tutorials.

CURRENT AFFAIRS**Political and Social Studies****Tutor: Tim Bornett**

The course will concentrate on two themes A) How to develop and lead a discussion group relating to various topics for discussion. This will assist those who hope to lead and/or establish such a group. B) To discuss and debate relevant and salient topics of the day.

As the school is not until the summer of 2014 certain topics may arise nearer the time and there will be a two way process between students and tutor on a regular basis approximately 8 weeks prior to the school. However one topic could be which decade since 1960 has been most significant to you in terms of events, attitudes politics etc.? Approximately 20% of the course will be undertaken on A) above with approximately 80% on B).

Level of ability: Suitable for all who have an interest in current affairs, which you are encouraged to follow in the media prior to the course.

Teaching style: Student-centred with discussions in small groups with reporting back to the full group for more formal summing up, debate and occasionally a vote. Throughout the course, divergent views will be encouraged. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time and bear in mind I will keep in regular touch once people have registered. **See additional notes on page 4.**

DRAMA THROUGH THE AGES**Tutor: Linda Shannon**

This course will concentrate mostly on British theatre and some of the changes brought about by playwrights and the times in which they lived. It will start, of course, with the Greeks and end in the 20th century; chronological but not comprehensive. Extracts from various plays will be read, and sometimes performed. We will look at various aspects relevant to each play: staging, language, costume & social etiquette, sub-plot, sub-text and more.

The titles of the plays will be confirmed in a letter. **See additional notes on page 4** for the possible selection.

Level of ability: An interest in the theatre is all that is necessary.

Teaching style: There will be introductory talks; pair and small group work and the opportunity to watch/listen to recordings. Background notes will be provided. It will not be necessary to read all the plays beforehand – photocopies of extracts will be used.

FRANCE**Regards sur la France d'aujourd'hui****Tutor: Louise Johnson**

I am a French native and I would like to share the love and knowledge of my country with you. We shall look at some aspects of French life today using recent newspaper and magazine articles, tapes, songs, quizzes etc. The course will be conducted in French and should help you to develop your language skills, while gaining confidence.

Level of ability: You should have a good level of French, ideally at 'A' standard if you are to benefit fully from the course. You should be able to understand written and spoken French and you will be expected to join actively in discussions in French. Please bring a bilingual dictionary and a short exposé in French on a French town or an aspect of French life which interests you. **See additional notes on page 4.**

Teaching style: My aim is to provide a relaxed atmosphere while offering an interesting and worthwhile content. I like to promote understanding and communication in French in an active, varied and fun way.

LATIN**A toe in the Tiber – a quick dip into the Latin language****Tutor: Angela Parkes**

Latin is a language as dead as dead can be; it killed the ancient Romans and now it's killing me! Do you have memories of being assailed with 'mensa, mensa, mensam' at school and wondering whatever this Latin language was about? Did you perhaps not have the chance to learn Latin and wish you had? This course aims to provide a relaxing yet at the same time rigorous and fairly intensive introduction to a language which has so greatly influenced our own and others, aiming to show how Latin works, looking at grammar and sentence structure. Don't expect to remember everything, but hopefully, in the short time available, you will have learnt enough to be able to pursue Latin on your own or with a group in U3A or elsewhere.

Level of ability: No previous knowledge of Latin is required but anyone who was bombarded with '*amo, amas, amat*' etc in long-distant schooldays might find the odd memory returning and will hopefully find that the learning approach has changed somewhat! Some previous experience of language learning, for example, French, will be a help but is not essential.

Teaching style: Tutor explanations and presentations, combined with full participation of the group both as individuals and in groups, depending upon numbers.

PHILOSOPHY**An introduction to Philosophical Metaphysics****Tutor: Ed Link**

This is an introduction to metaphysics which is probably the most abstract branch of philosophy. Metaphysics covers fundamental concepts of human existence. Such things as identity, reality, causality and that which exists. A closely related issue is that concerned with how we can reliably know about the external world, a branch of study known as epistemology. The very notion that philosophical metaphysics can tell us anything worthwhile has been contested by philosophers but modern physics raises some fascinating questions that seem to indicate that the universe is anything but what we commonly assume it to be. This course will consider some of these metaphysical issues and what we can reliably know. It will definitely not provide answers but will raise some intriguing questions and useful ways in which these questions can be examined.

Level of ability: No previous philosophical knowledge is necessary but a willingness to engage in abstract concepts will be essential. Two reference works will be used on this course. Bertrand Russell's *The Problems of Philosophy* and George Stuart Fullerton's *Introduction to Philosophy*. It is not necessary that attendees read these books but they are both available free to download on the internet.

Teaching style: Each session will start with a short lecture to set the context and raise questions and then these issues will be examined in discussion with the class.

RECORDER ENSEMBLE**Tutor: Ursula Steiger**

If you are a recorder player and would like to make music with others you will enjoy this course. We shall be playing pieces from the whole recorder repertoire, some baroque and some modern. **This course is not for complete beginners. Sight-reading skills and some playing experience would help you to get the most out of the course.** However, enthusiasm and a willingness to meet a challenge are also important and there will be an opportunity for you to practise in a group with others whose playing is of a similar standard.

The days will be a mixture of 'jam sessions' and learning some pieces in depth with a look at the theory related to the music. Above all, we aim to have fun and enjoy the company of other musicians and, you never know, we might try something completely new!

Level of ability: You need to be able to play a simple tune on your chosen recorder. The better you are at sight-reading and playing in different keys the easier it will be for you, but we will provide additional help for those who need it.

Teaching style: This will be a mixture of coaching players to achieve a good tone, of learning a number of pieces for playing in the ensemble and of helping participants to gain confidence in themselves and in their playing. Above all, the atmosphere will be non-threatening and inclusive and we aim to have fun!

See additional notes on page 4.

**COSTS FOR COMPLETE SUMMER SCHOOL
INCLUDING A WELCOME DRINKS RECEPTION ON THE FIRST DAY**

Full board residential delegate in en-suite accommodation	£285.00 per person
Non-residential day delegate including lunches	£107.00 per person

DEPOSIT £75.00 per person

Additional notes:

- Details of any preliminary reading/book lists, materials required will be sent when available.
- **Canal History.** It is more practical to use participants' cars for the half day visit to the local sites. The car sharing arrangements will be organised by the tutor at the school.
- **Current Affairs.** Tutor is Tim Bornett, telephone 01953 860388 or email timbornett@btinternet.com
- **Drama through the Ages.** Selection of plays: Antigone; Macbeth; A Doll's House; The Importance of Being Earnest; Three Sisters; Look Back in Anger; The Birthday Party; Abigail's Party; Our Country's Good.
Please contact the tutor if you have any queries, Linda Shannon, email l.shannon082@btopenworld.com
- **France.** If you have any queries about the level of ability required, please contact the tutor, Louise Johnson, telephone 01491 572608 or email louissettejohnson@yahoo.co.uk
- **Recorder Ensemble.** If you have any queries about the level of ability required, please contact the tutor, Ursula Steiger, telephone 01227 71153 or email ursulae@btinternet.com
Students need to bring: A loose-leaf folder for music, notebook, pencil and music stand. Participants will be asked to purchase the music chosen; the cost will not exceed £10 per person and you will be notified of the amount before the school starts.

Please read the Booking Notes before completing the application form.

Contact National Office, NOT the University, if you have any questions about this summer school.