



Summer Schools August 2016

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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Introduction

In 1998, the Standing Committee for Education (SCE) came up with the idea to organise a national summer school to provide U3A members with an opportunity to participate in a residential study experience.

In 1999 Phyllis Babb (Sarum U3A) and a member of the SCE organised the first school in York and it was so successful that national summer schools became an integral part of U3A life, with 2 schools a year being organised from 2002.

The summer schools are a wonderful example of self-help learning with all the tutors being U3A members, who give up a significant amount of their time to provide attendees with an enjoyable and participatory learning experience.

The usual pattern of a summer school is arrival on the Monday afternoon with an introductory seminar before dinner, approximately 5 hours of seminars on both the Tuesday and the Wednesday and 3 hours on the final morning, with plenty of breaks and opportunities for socialising with U3A members from all over the UK.

This year, both Schools take place at:

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, GL7 6JS

School 1: 8 – 11 August 2016

School 2: 15 – 18 August 2016

**The Third Age Trust thanks
The Educational Foundation for Lifelong Learning for its generous
financial support of the U3A national summer schools.**

School 1: 8–11 August

1491: THE AMERICAS BEFORE COLUMBUS

A new picture of the new World

Tutor: Maria Chester – 018907 81500 – artandcivilisations@gmail.com

Have you ever thought about the Amazonian landscape? Do you think it was wild before the arrival of Columbus to the Americas? In this course we shall explore the people and the landscape before the arrival of the conquistadors. We will travel together back in time to 1491, a year before *The Admiral* touched American soil. Thanks to new technologies such as climatology, epidemiology, paleoenvironmental studies, palynology, molecular biology, ice-core sampling, satellite photography and laser virtual 3D, among many others, we are able to reconsider archaeological evidence. A new picture of the Americas and their original inhabitants is emerging. We shall see how the discovery of the Americas revolutionised trade, ecology and life on earth.

Level of ability

A general idea about the official version of the discovery of the Americas will be appreciated. The tutor will recommend some titles, links, websites and books closer to the starting date. Participants may wish to bring a memory stick/pen drive to download the tutor's presentations.

Teaching style

Lecture-style with plenty of participation. Questions and answers will be encouraged.

We will watch a film '*Ishi: the Last of His Tribe*' based on the life of Dr. Kroeber (Smithsonian) and *Ishi* (last survivor of the Yahi tribe).

ARCHITECTURE EXPLORED

Tutor: Clyde Raine – 0161 432 7161 – clyderaine@gmail.com

The course will explore the great architectural styles used in the UK: Classical, Gothic, Georgian and Modern and relate them to well known buildings and cities. We will find out how these styles developed and how they have been used by architects throughout the history of these islands. The course will reveal why our buildings look the way they do and include a guided tour of the magnificent Parish Church of St John The Baptist, Cirencester to look at Gothic styles and periods.

There will be an additional charge of £4 per person for the Parish Church guided tour payable to U3A organisers at the school.

Level of ability

For those interested in the architecture which has shaped the buildings in this country. No previous architectural knowledge is needed.

Teaching style

Mainly lecture style with group work and discussion.

CREATIVE WRITING

Crime and Thriller writing –with a twist in the tale!

Tutor: Gilly Beckett – 01366 501 506 – gillyannebec@hotmail.com

Does your artistic imagination occasionally wander into ‘heart-pounding, palm-sweating’ situations that you aren’t sure how to get out of? Do you find yourself devising horrific murders in your head? This course investigates techniques and concepts to help you construct challenging plots and credible characters. A rejuvenated *Miss Marple*, a spanking-fresh *Poirot*, a ‘*Tuppence and Tommy Duo*’ brought bang up to date? How about devising a thriller set in centuries gone by? And of course, we must create the perfect villain! If you are seeking to broaden your writing horizons, the course offers the chance to explore a different genre and have fun along the way.

Level of ability

This creative writing course is designed for participants with some experience of creative writing - perhaps as a member of a creative writers’ group - and for those who enjoy writing for pleasure and appreciate a challenge.

Teaching style

The course will consist of seminars and small group activities.

DRAMA: IRISH THEATRE AND ITS INFLUENCE

Tutor: Rosamund Hall – rosamundhall@gmail.com

The Abbey Theatre, Dublin, has a brave and controversial history. Yeats, O’Casey and Synge each contributed to its 1904 beginnings. We will study one major play from this era and one from more recent times. Early productions provoked riots, sparked by both religious and political fury. The English theatre was, of course, hugely influenced by two Irishmen - Oscar Wilde and G. B. Shaw. As well as the two scripts I will ask you to bring with you, we will work on scenes from many others. This is a rich field.

Level of ability

It is simply necessary that you enjoy being involved in drama and are not afraid to try acting.

Teaching style

Short talks and workshops: I will inform you about the two main plays to be studied well before the school starts. You will have time to get the plays and become familiar with at least one character in each, so not all the course will be sight-reading. Sometimes several groups will present the same scene and this should lead to constructive discussion of interpretation.

EARLY CHURCH AND THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Tutor: Angela Parkes – 07799 692816 – angelamparkes@yahoo.co.uk

We shall explore the broader historical and social context of the emergence and development of Christianity, from the time of the Apostles to the legalisation of Christianity under Constantine. Please note this is a history course, not a 'religious' one. We will consider the development of Christianity purely in the context of the history of the Roman Empire up to the death of Constantine in 337 AD, looking particularly at the attitude and reaction of the Roman world to Christianity's expansion.

Topics will include the effect of Christian ideas on Roman society and vice versa, the development of the New Testament documents and other writings, meeting places, from house groups to church buildings, persecutions, and prominent figures, from Paul to Constantine. There will be a visit to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester.

Level of ability

No previous knowledge of the period or experience required. A booklist will be available for those who wish to do some preliminary reading but this is purely voluntary.

Teaching style

Illustrated presentations, with plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion.

FOLK ART APPLIQUÉ

An introduction

Tutor: Denise Collar – denisecollar@googlemail.com

The group will be introduced to the art of folk art appliqué. Each member will create a small folk art wall hanging which will be hand stitched ready for hand quilting or for machine stitching at home. The initial project will be structured, step by step, and elements of design, technique and colour balance will be taught and practised. All fabric and wadding will be provided at a cost of £15, payable to the tutor when the course begins.

Level of ability

This course is suitable for complete beginners or those who wish to practise their sewing skills; the only requirement is the ability to hand sew. You will need to bring a basic sewing kit and the tutor will advise the items to include.

Teaching style

There will be an introductory talk using examples of the tutor's own appliquéd art quilts to encourage the creative potential of this folk art style. The skills learned will be easily transferable to your own designs. There is a strong, positive social element to this course and by working in groups and encouraging each other we aim to learn, achieve and have fun.

FRANCE

Regards sur la France actuelle

Tutor: Louise Johnson – 01491 572608 – louisettejohnson@yahoo.co.uk

I am a French native and would like to offer an "immersion" course designed to give you the opportunity to make full use of your language skills and develop them. We shall explore different aspects of French life through recent paper and magazine articles, tapes, quizzes, etc.

Level of ability

As the course will be entirely conducted in French, you should have a good understanding of the written and spoken language and you will be expected to participate actively in discussions in French. This should be ideally suited to members of an advanced conversation group. Please bring a bilingual dictionary and a short exposé in French on a subject of your choice related to France.

Teaching style

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

LITERATURE

Bloomsbury and its influence

Tutor: Mary MacGregor – 01550 720182 – emmacgregor@hotmail.co.uk

Although the course will concentrate on Vanessa (Bell), Virginia (Woolf) and Leonard, members are invited to bring their own contributions about other members of Bloomsbury, such as John Maynard Keynes, who revolutionised economics and Roger Fry, who changed British art - shocking the art establishment with his Post-Impressionist Exhibitions of 1910 and 1912 and setting up the Omega workshops. Members of this course may also bring contributions about authors associated with the Hogarth Press such as T.S. Eliot and Katherine Mansfield. Bloomsbury cannot be dismissed as merely a circle of friends who lived in squares and loved in triangles. Their members revolutionised attitudes to life and art. The course will look at Bloomsbury's contribution to bringing this change about.

Level of ability

The course is suitable for all who are interested in literature and art. In preparation it would be useful to become familiar with some of the writings of Virginia Woolf, if only her letters and diaries, and with the art of Vanessa Bell. It is not essential, but you are welcome to bring any books or illustrations connected with Bloomsbury, and with Charleston or Monks House, the homes of Vanessa and Virginia, to share with the class.

Teaching style

Use of PowerPoint and a mixture of small group work and general discussion. Group work will be on passages from Virginia Woolf's work, copies of which will be provided.

RECORDER ENSEMBLE PLAYING

Tutor: Ursula Steiger – 01227 711536 – ursulae@btinternet.com

This course has proved popular with small recorder groups and lone players. It is aimed at those who can play at least one recorder reasonably well and who are familiar with some basic music theory. An ability to read music and play in at least three keys will help, but we will take time to learn each part of a piece. Above all else, what members need to enjoy this course is a willingness to embrace the challenge of learning new skills and sharing the joy of making music with others. The course requires a fairly high level of concentration. We try to relieve this with opportunities for small group playing, including a help group intended primarily for descant players.

We play a variety of pieces from traditional Baroque recorder music to modern pieces, some written especially for recorder ensembles and some skilfully arranged to fit our instruments

Members will be asked to purchase the music provided and the amount will not exceed £10. It is absolutely essential that you bring a folder for your music, as well as a pencil and eraser, your recorder/s and a music stand.

Level of ability

You need to be able to play reasonably well on your chosen recorder. The better you are at sight-reading and playing in different keys the easier it will be for you. If you would like to improve your playing by making music with a large group, this may well be your opportunity.

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!

School 2: 15–18 August

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor: Henry Howarth – 01202 760478 – henry.howarth@czdcrosswords.co.uk

Many people do quick crosswords, but don't know how to solve cryptic crosswords and would like to learn. This comprehensive course teaches beginners how to do this, starting with the simplest ideas and easiest types of cryptic clue and gradually progressing to the more advanced aspects of clue solving. At the end of the course, students will understand how cryptic clues work, be able to solve clues at an intermediate level of difficulty, and know how to develop their solving skills further. This is a stimulating and engaging course which can lead to an enjoyable new pastime.

Level of ability

The course is suitable for complete beginners and those who have a little experience of solving cryptic clues. Each student will be provided with a copy of the course book *Learn How to Solve Cryptic Crosswords* at the discounted education price of £10 payable at the School.

Teaching style

The course blends practical activities with theory, enabling students to build their skills and knowledge in tandem. Each topic is first presented by the tutor, and this is followed by exercises to reinforce the key learning points. Practical activities are undertaken individually or by the whole group. The course is delivered in a relaxed and friendly manner so that everyone can ask questions, make contributions and learn from others.

GARDEN DESIGN

Cornerstones of English Garden Design

Tutor: Marion Dale – 01935 829313 – marion@summerdaledesigns.co.uk

This course will introduce students to the key periods which have had a lasting influence on English garden design. We will explore some key influences which have shaped garden design in:

- Formal Tudor and Elizabethan gardens
- William and Mary Dutch gardens
- The Landscape movement
- The Victorian years
- Arts and Crafts and Edwardian times.

We will explore details of the styles, preferred planting and key features of gardens for each of the above periods and will also look at the social, cultural and political factors influencing the garden designs at the time. The course will include a visit to Buscot Park which will be led by the course tutor, where we will analyse and review the design elements as a group.

Coach visits/entry charges: there will be an additional charge of approximately £14 - £20 per person payable to U3A organisers on registration. You will be notified how much to bring before the school starts. Buscot Park is a National Trust property.

Level of ability

No specific qualifications are needed and anyone who is interested in gardening, garden design and English history is more than welcome on the course.

Teaching style

A mixture of lectures, discussions and group activities. The garden visit will be used to exemplify some of the theory covered during the course. Handouts and other supporting material will be provided for all sessions.

GEOLOGY

Geology, Scenery and the maps that changed the world

Tutor: Martyn Bradley – 01926 428835 – martynfbradley@gmail.com

The course explores how underlying geology influences scenery and how geological maps can help in interpreting rocks and structures. William Smith, a canal engineer born in the Cotswolds, published his “*Map that changed the World*” in 1815. He became known as “The Father of English Geology”. We shall use the successor maps of the British Geological Survey to interpret scenery in England and Wales and especially the Cotswold area around Cirencester. There will be a field trip to look at local geological scenery and we may even find some fossils. We will visit the Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Museum in the village where William Smith was born. Coach charge for field trip £13 per person payable to U3A organisers on registration.

Level of ability

Course suitable for all; beginners welcome. The geological map to be used in the course is the 1:625,000 Bedrock Geology UK South. This modern successor to Smith's 1815 map can be bought online from BGS. With the map is an explanatory booklet with a simple introduction and stimulating photographs. Map and booklet cost £15 + P&P. Students may find it useful to bring to the school, although it is not essential.

Teaching style

Lectures style course with student participation and discussion. Local field trip and Museum visit. There will be some paper mapping problems for groups to work at. The tutor will send students details of what else to bring, and any preparatory reading, in good time.

HISTORY OF IDEAS

The Romantic Movement

Tutor: Meg Shaw – 01200 426103 – margretshaw@fsmail.net

We will explore the place of Romanticism in the history of ideas. We shall study the early English Romantic movement of the 19th century with reference to the Lake poets William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey and the writers who influenced them.

Level of ability

No experience will be assumed, though group members will need to prepare by reading some Wordsworth, Taylor Coleridge and Southey, in particular Wordsworth's '*Preface to the Lyrical Ballads*' 1802, Wordsworth's '*The Prelude*' and Taylor Coleridge's '*Rime of the Ancient Mariner*'. It will also be useful to read '*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*' Mary Wollstonecraft and the novel '*Possession*' by A S Byatt. You will not need to bring books to summer school as texts will be provided.

Teaching style

There will be a mixture of presentations and discussion.

LA BELLA ITALIA

La cultura e la lingua

Tutor: Heather Westrup – 01923 283577 – heatherwestrupu3a@hotmail.co.uk

This course will be a combination of useful and stimulating communicative language activities, a little grammar revision and other sessions in which some favourite aspects of the culture of Italy will be explored. In true U3A style, you will be invited to contribute to the course (preferably in Italian) on a topic of your choice, an Italian region, a city you have visited, some art history, an artist, a clip from an Italian film, some history or whatever you think might interest other participants and promote discussion. I shall communicate with you in advance to make sure we have a balanced and varied programme. This course will take a similar format to the course in 2015 but the content of sessions will be new.

Level of ability

This course is suitable for learners at GCSE to A level or for Levels A2 to B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference only. Details of this document are available on the U3A National Website under Advisers/Languages General/CEFR. More advanced learners might be bored, beginners will struggle!

Teaching style

Participants will be actively involved at all times. There will be a good mixture of group and pair work, short presentations, short lectures, discussions and possibly even drama!

MATHS - MAKING SENSE OF INFINITY

Tutor: John Baylis – 01437 731103

Children often challenge their friends to say the biggest number. Later they realise there isn't one and they have become mathematicians! This new course will explore the inescapable, surprising and paradoxical nature of infinity. The two main themes are infinity as a size, as in "how many points are there on a line?" and infinity as an unending process, as in "what happens when you add $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} \dots$ but don't stop"? Come with an open mind and a preparedness to engage with some rather strange ideas.

Level of ability

Conceptually this is "higher maths". Required knowledge is "lower maths" – you just need to be comfortable with the arithmetic of fractions and decimals and very basic school algebra. Otherwise there is no required pre-course reading.

Teaching style

Mix of seminars and discussion.

MUSIC

Making Friends with Music, from Dawn to Sunset

Tutor: Jack Wood – 01707 377900 – jack@handside.net

When did Classical Music start? How did it develop to the great works of the 19th and 20th centuries? Has its sunset arrived yet?

These and other questions may be answered during this course, which is aimed at people who appreciate classical music, but would like to know more about it: background, composers, construction. Some musical terms will be explained, but this is not a technical course - diminished sevenths, and the like, are not under discussion!

The course takes the form of lectures and musical examples (on CD). About 60% of the time will be listening to music, and the examples have been chosen to inform, sometimes surprise, and always to entertain.

Level of ability

Beginners, who have perhaps never bothered to listen to classical music but would like to, will be welcome. People who enjoy classical music because they know a little about it, but want to know more, will be welcome. This is not a course for expert – or even very competent – musicians and musicologists.

Teaching style

Lecture style with time for questions and comments. Comprehensive information sheets will be given to students with details of the recordings played; English translations of song lyrics; biographies/chronologies of the main composers featured; and other items that may be of interest.

SHAKESPEARE AND HIS FEMALE GAME-CHANGERS

Tutor: Linda Shannon – l.shannon082@btinternet.com

The role of Tudor women will be examined and, in particular, those in Shakespeare's life [mother, wife, daughters] to see what influence, if any, they had on him. Then we will read passages from three of his plays to see the effect of three game-changers: Juliet (families); Lady Macbeth (kingship); Portia (justice and mercy).

Our study will give us the opportunity to see whether the strong women in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *The Merchant of Venice* were in any way influenced by the women in Shakespeare's life. Did he personally know some

‘game-changers’?

Level of ability

A love of Shakespeare of course with a willingness to read aloud and to discuss our findings. Prior knowledge of the plays isn't essential since a synopsis of each one will be sent out beforehand

Teaching style

Introductory talks, small and large group work, reading aloud, discussion and watching extracts on DVD.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Tutor: Ursula Steiger – 01227 711536 – ursulae@btinternet.com

A wish to learn and an appreciation of different types of songs are essential for the enjoyment of this course. We shall sometimes sing in unison, more often in two three or four parts, depending on the make-up of the group. This course will be easier for those who can read music, even at a basic level, and have some experience of singing with others. However, inexperienced singers are welcome provided they are happy to embrace the challenge of an intensive learning experience. Course members will learn the songs with the help of an experienced pianist and we shall also provide a small opportunity for members who wish to sing something a little more demanding.

It has become tradition for the singing group to end the evening of the gala dinner with a short concert and this gives the group an added purpose.

The cost for music will not exceed £10 per student and you will be notified of the amount before the School starts. Members will need to bring a folder for their music, pencil, erasers and notebook. You may like to bring a percussion instrument if you have one.

Level of ability

Those who can read music or at least recognise notes going up or down a scale will find this course easier than those who can't. However, singing is about opening hearts and minds to music and if you are willing to try and learn at a fairly fast pace you will be very welcome.

Teaching style

There will be ‘jam’ sessions in unison or harmony, allowing the music to invigorate us, lift our spirits and make us smile. In addition, we will spend time learning a few pieces in depth and with harmonies wherever possible. We shall also look at some theory in relation to the music we sing and, of course, we shall have daily ‘warm-up’ sessions.

Booking Notes

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, GL7 6JS

School 1: 8 – 11 August 2016

School 2: 15 – 18 August 2016

1. To apply for a place, you may either fill out a paper form, or you may use the online booking form, found in the Members' Area of the website (www.u3a.org.uk). You may also pay online if you wish.
2. One form to be completed by each applicant. When you put your first name, please ensure that it is the one you wish to have on your badge.
3. Booking courses: Only put a 2nd choice if you are prepared to do it as you will be assigned your 2nd choice if your other choice is full. You can be put on a waiting list for your 1st subject if you do not put an alternative course.
4. Students cannot mix courses or transfer to another course on arrival. Some courses may have to be cancelled if there are insufficient numbers.
5. Accommodation: Single student bedrooms with en-suite facilities arranged on 2/3 floors in villas. Towels and complimentary tea/coffee facilities are provided. There are some double and twin bedded rooms allocated on a first-come first-served basis.
6. Travel: The university is in a rural location and public transport is infrequent. The station for Cirencester is Kemble which is a short taxi drive (4 miles) from the university.
7. Registration on Monday (approximately 2.30pm – 4.30pm). The schools start after registration and close after lunch on Thursday.
8. Seminar timetable guide: Monday 5pm – 6pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 9am – 4.45pm; Thursday 9am – 12.15pm.
9. Extra accommodation for the night before and after each school is available for £44pp per night bed & breakfast. It can be booked up to six weeks before the school starts.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Ground floor rooms are limited and must be pre-booked. The ability to manage stairs is essential for all those who have not booked a ground floor room. There are no lifts in accommodation villas.

There are lifts in teaching areas and the campus is flat, but there is several minutes walk between buildings.

Summer Schools are open to all but members must be able to participate independently and take full responsibility for themselves. If you need further information before applying please contact National Office and we will advise you.

COSTS

Full board residential delegate in en-suite accommodation:

£285.00 per person

Non-residential day delegate including lunches, excluding dinners:

£107.00 per person

A deposit of £75.00 per person is required upon booking. The balance is payable by 30th April 2016.

Cheques are to be made payable to 'The Third Age Trust'. Please write the name of your course on the reverse of all cheques.

Refund Policy

Deposits are non-refundable after 30th April 2016. Any balance refunds after this date will be made at the the Third Age Trust's discretion. We regret that we cannot make any refunds for cancellation (or non-attendance) within four weeks of the Summer School's starting date.

We strongly recommend that you consider taking out holiday insurance.

MORE INFORMATION

Please direct any course-related queries to the relevant tutor (contact details provided with course information). For general queries, contact the National Office at events@u3a.org.uk or on 020 8466 6139.