

Virginia Woolf: *Jacob's Room* and *The Waves*

Start date 5 February 2016**End date** 7 February 2016**Venue** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge**Tutor** Professor Jem Poster**Course code** 1516NRX053**Director of Programmes**

Emma Jennings

**For further information on this
course, please contact**

Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr

clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237**To book** See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Professor Jem Poster

Emeritus Professor of Creative Writing, Aberystwyth University; Affiliated Lecturer, University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education.

Jem Poster worked as an archaeologist, surveying and excavating a range of sites on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, before taking up an administrative post with Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education in 1987. From 1993 to 2003 he was University Lecturer in Literature with Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education and a fellow of Kellogg College. From 2003 to 2012 he was Professor of Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University, and is now Emeritus Professor. He is the author of two novels, *Courting Shadows* (2002) and *Rifling Paradise* (2006), as well as a collection of poetry, *Brought to Light* (2001), and has recently completed volume 3 of the six-volume Oxford University Press *Edward Thomas: Prose Writings*. He has won prizes in major poetry competitions including first prize in both the Cardiff International Poetry Competition in 1995 and the Peterloo Poets Open Poetry Competition in 2001. He has been Chair of the editorial board of Wales's leading literary journal, *New Welsh Review*, and is currently

Programme Advisor to the Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education's MSt in Creative Writing and Director of its International Summer Programme in Creative Writing; he is an Affiliated Lecturer of the Institute. He is Director of Academic Programmes for the Financial Times Oxford Literary Festival and in 2014 spent four months as Writer in Residence at Arizona State University.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Introduction; Jacob's Room (I)
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Jacob's Room (II)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Jacob's Room (III)
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	The Waves (I)
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	The Waves (II)
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	The Waves (III)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	The Waves (IV); conclusion
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To explore the relationships between Woolf's work and its wider context;
2. To analyse the novels under review;
3. To gain a clearer sense of the writer's achievement.

Content:

Jacob's Room was the novel in which Woolf began to find her distinctive voice; *The Waves* is arguably her finest achievement. Many of the concerns of the later novel are already present in the earlier, and we shall be looking at the connections between the two, as well as considering the ways in which Woolf's art developed during the nine years that separate them. The primary focus will be the novels themselves, which will be examined in detail, but we shall also be referring outwards to their wider literary and social context.

It is important that participants read in advance, and bring to the course, the two novels under review. It will be easiest if we are all working from the same edition: I'd suggest the Oxford World's Classics editions.

Presentation of the course:

The course will take the form of a series of seminars, in which group discussion will be actively encouraged; a major part of these discussions will focus on the novels themselves, which will be analysed in detail.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Place the writer in her wider context and understand more clearly the implications and meaning of her work;
2. Gain greater confidence in their approach to the analysis of literary texts in general.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Briggs, Julia	<i>Virginia Woolf: An Inner Life</i>	Harvest, 2006
Lee, Hermione	<i>Virginia Woolf</i>	Vintage, 1997

Website addresses

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 13 January 2016