

One Day, One Novel: *Pride and Prejudice*

Date	27 th February 2016	Time	9.30-16.45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Academic Director	Dr Jenny Bavidge	Course code	1516NDX021

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Clare Kerr, Public Programmes Coordinator
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biographies

Jenny Bavidge is University Senior Lecturer and Academic Director for English at ICE and a Fellow in English at Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge. She is the President of the Literary London Society and a member of the English Faculty's Contemporaries group. Jenny teaches within a wide range of areas, including 19th and 20th-century American and British literature and has published on a variety of topics, including the literature of London, E. Nesbit, ecocriticism, rats, and balloons.

Day school content:

This day school will offer an intensive introduction to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Published in 1813, this novel has had a powerful hold on the hearts and minds of readers. We will begin the day by placing the novel in the context of Austen's life and times and then move on to think about particular themes in the novel. During each session we will analyse selected passages from the novel, taking time to identify notable aspects of Austen's style, such as her use of 'indirect discourse' and irony, and to comment on the form and structure of her development of the novel's plot. Each of the sessions will trace a different theme in the novel; we will begin each seminar session with a brief lecture and then read and discuss selected passages together. In her *Mansfield Park*, Austen says 'Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery. I quit such odious subjects as soon as I can...'. Is *Pride and Prejudice* simply a novel of light and laughter or does it address more serious themes? Does Austen critique the society she depicts in the novel or does she support the status quo? And exactly how rich are you if you have £10,000 a year?

Please read the novel in full before the course and bring a copy with you. If you are buying an edition of the novel for the course then the Oxford World's Classics or Norton editions are recommended. There are some suggestions of close-reading in the description for each session (below) which would form useful preparation for the course.

Programme:

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: Introduction and Context <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> appeared just after the beginning of the Regency period (after George III had succumbed to permanent insanity) and at the height of the Napoleonic wars. We will consider the setting and the careful delineation of class, social relations and networks which bring the characters together (and keep them apart). Preparation: please look carefully at the first chapter and how we are introduced to the town of Meryton and its inhabitants.
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: Love Does <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> believe in romantic love? In this session, we will look at the varying portraits of marriage offered in the novel. Is the novel only interested in pursuing its 'marriage plot' and if so, how does this affect our judgement of the characters? Preparation: please read Mr Darcy's first proposal to Elizabeth (in Chapter 34) and then his letter (Chapter 35) explaining his motives and expressing his regret.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Money Mr Darcy is worth £10,000 a year. Mr Bennett will give the errant Lydia £100 after her marriage to Wickham. How does Austen interrogate her society's attitude to money and property? Does the treatment of money affect the discussion of love? Preparation: Please make a note of moments when characters' incomes or expectations are mentioned (see for example, Mary King's inheritance, Bingley and Darcy's relative incomes, the arrangements Darcy must make for Wickham).
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Mud How 'realist' is Jane Austen's writing? In this session we will look closely at how her style compares to other realist novels of the nineteenth century and we will also discuss how far her novels deal with the 'real' issues of her day. Is there any acknowledgement of the Napoleonic wars in the novels? Preparation: please try to identify some moments in the novel where you notice the narrative voice gently persuading you towards a particular judgement of the characters. This might be through direct comment, or the use of indirect discourse (where the narrative voice takes on the attitudes and 'voice' of a character or group of characters), or through dramatic irony.

Reading and resources list

If you would like to read more about Jane Austen's life and times and critical responses to her work, then the list of books below are recommended as starting points but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Austen, Jane, ed. by Deirdre Le Faye	<i>Collected Letters of Jane Austen</i>	Oxford University Press, 1997
Brown, Julia Prewitt	<i>Jane Austen's Novels: Social Change and Literary Form</i>	Harvard University Press, 1979
Copeland, Edward and Juliet McMaster	<i>The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen</i>	Cambridge University Press, 2011
Gard, Roger	<i>Jane Austen's Novels: The Art of Clarity</i>	Yale University Press, 1992
Nokes, David,	<i>Jane Austen: A Life</i>	Fourth Estate, 1997
Tanner, Tony,	<i>Jane Austen</i>	Macmillan, 1986
Todd, Janet,	<i>Jane Austen in Context</i>	Cambridge University Press, 2005

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and a light sandwich lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

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: 12 February 2016