

One Day, One Novel: *Wuthering Heights*

Date	28 th February 2016	Time	9.30-16.45
Venue	Maddingley Hall Maddingley Cambridge		
Academic Director	Dr Jenny Bavidge	Course code	1516NDX022

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:

Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* has divided readers and critics since its publication in 1847. With its dramatic storylines, gothic overtones and unforgettable characters, it was a daring and innovative novel which has continued to be a cultural touchstone. This day school will serve as an introduction to the novel, drawing out its themes and offering opportunities to analyse its form and style. Each session will focus on a different aspect of the text and will combine short lectures with seminar discussion. We will spend some time at the end of the day thinking about adaptations of and cultural responses to *Wuthering Heights*, from Kate Bush's wonderfully eccentric pop song to Andrea Arnold's bold reimagining of the novel in her film of 2011.

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	<p>Session 1: Introduction and Context</p> <p><i>Wuthering Heights</i> was Emily Brontë's only novel. In this session, as well as talking about the genesis and publication of the novel and Brontë's life, we will begin by placing the novel in its historical context and thinking about its place in literary history. We will look at some of the first reviews of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> and also examine later critical reactions.</p> <p>Preparation: please read Charlotte Brontë's 'Editor's Preface' to the 1850 edition of the novel and her 'Biographical Notice of Ellis and Acton Bell'. If your edition of the novel does not include these two pieces, you can find them here:</p> <p>Biographical Notice: https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/b/bronte/emily/b869w/preface.html</p> <p>Editor's Preface: http://www.thegreatbooks.org/library/texts/bronte/wuthering/wuthering_pref.html</p>
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	<p>Session 2: 'Take care not to laugh at any part of it...': Telling the Tale</p> <p>In this session, we'll think about the structure and narrative form of <i>Wuthering Heights</i>. The novel is full of letters, reports, dreams and the subjective recounting of experiences. Why does Brontë choose this multi-layered story-telling rather than a more straightforward third person narration? Is the novel best understood as following the structure of a love story or a tale of revenge?</p> <p>Preparation: please look over the first three chapters and think about how the story of the inhabitants of Wuthering Heights is presented to us. What sort of narrator is Mr Lockwood? Why do we hear the story from Nelly Dean's point of view and not one of the characters more closely involved in the action?</p>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	<p>Session 3: 'The more the worms writhe...' Violence and Desire in <i>Wuthering Heights</i></p> <p>An early review of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> described it as a novel of 'vulgar depravity and unnatural horrors'. We'll look at the language and imagery of the novel and think about the function of violence and supernatural energies within its narration.</p> <p>Preparation: Please note examples of violent or excessive language in the novel</p>

15:15

Tea

15:30 – 16:45

Session 4: ‘Heaven did not seem to be my home...’: Setting and Nature in *Wuthering Heights*

In this final session, we will consider the setting of the moors and the significance of two houses in the novels. We will also take some time to examine the interpretations of film-makers and other artists who have offered their own readings of the novel.

Preparation: If you have time, watch any of the adaptations of *Wuthering Heights*. There have been many, some rather less faithful than others! See, for example: *Wuthering Heights* (William Wyler, 1939); *Abismos de Pasión* (Luis Buñuel, 1954); *Wuthering Heights*, (1970, Robert Fuest – Timothy Dalton as Heathcliff); *Hurlevent* (Jacques Rivette, 1985); *Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights* (Peter Kosminsky, 1992); *Wuthering Heights* (2009, ITV series, Coky Giedroyc – available in full on youtube); *Wuthering Heights* (Andrea Arnold, 2011 – with warnings for violence and strong language).

16:45

Day school ends

Reading and resources list

If you would like to read more about Emily Brontë's life 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
Barker, Juliet	<i>The Brontës</i>	Weidenfeld, 1995
Brontë, Emily	<i>Complete Poems</i>	Penguin, 1992
Eagleton, Terry	<i>Terry Eagleton, Myths of Power: A Marxist Study of the Brontës</i>	Palgrave, 2005
Gaskell, Elizabeth	<i>The Life of Charlotte Brontë</i>	1857; Penguin, 1992
Glen, Heather	<i>The Cambridge Companion to the Brontës</i>	Cambridge UP, 2002

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: 15 February 2016