

The Poetry of D. H. Lawrence

Start date 6 May 2016**End date** 8 May 2016**Venue** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge**Tutor** Professor Jem Poster**Course code** 1516NRX063**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; the early poems
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	The early poems continued; Look! We Have Come Through (I)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Look! We Have Come Through (II)
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Birds, Beasts and Flowers (I)
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Birds, Beasts and Flowers (II); Pansies
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Last Poems (I)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Last Poems (II); conclusion
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

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

Content:

D. H. Lawrence is better known as a novelist than as a poet, yet he has a claim to be considered among the most significant English poets of the twentieth century. In formal terms, his writing helped to liberate modern poetry into freer forms. At the same time, he offered remarkable insights into the increasingly vexed relationship between humankind and the natural world, his writing serving on the one hand as a bridge back to early Romanticism and, on the other, foreshadowing important trends in contemporary environmentalist thinking. The poems will be our primary focus, but we shall also be looking at their background: Lawrence's origins in a Nottinghamshire mining community, his later itinerant lifestyle and the wider social and cultural context of his life.

The following poems are likely to figure significantly in discussion: **please read them in advance of the course, and bring them to all of the classes.** I'd suggest the Penguin edition of the *Complete Poems*, edited by V. de Sola Pinto and W. Roberts, though any edition containing all of the poems in the list will be fine:

'The Wild Common', 'Love on the Farm', 'The Collier's Wife', 'Malade', 'Ballad of Another Ophelia', 'Piano', 'First Morning', 'Gloire de Dijon', 'Coming Awake', 'Song of a Man Who Is Loved', 'Song of a Man Who Has Come Through', 'Peach', 'Figs', 'Bare Almond-Trees', 'Bat', 'Snake', 'Mountain Lion', 'O, Start a Revolution', 'Obscenity', 'Leave Sex Alone', 'Glory', 'Absolute Reverence', 'The Rainbow', 'Butterfly', 'Bavarian Gentians', 'The Hands of God', 'The Ship of Death'.

Presentation of the course:

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

Outcomes:

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

1. Place the writer in his wider context and understand more clearly the implications and meaning of his 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
Worthen, John	<i>D. H. Lawrence: The Life of an Outsider</i>	Penguin, 2006

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: 07 April 2016