

One Day, One Novel: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

Date	10 th April 2016	Time	9.30-16.45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Academic Director	Dr Jenny Bavidge	Course code	1516NDX045

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:

According to novelist and critic Henry James, Thomas Hardy's *Tess of D'Urbervilles* is 'chock-full of faults and falsity and yet has a singular beauty and charm.' Our day school on the novel will explore this rich and much-debated work and encourage discussion of the questions which it has prompted in readers since its publication in 1891. Is Tess destroyed by her own flaws and misunderstandings? Is she a victim of fate, moving inexorably towards predestined ends? Or is her story an emblematic one, intended to reflect the lives of the rural poor in Hardy's time? Hardy said in defence of his novel's treatment of 'indelicate' themes that it was an 'attempt to give artistic form to a true sequence of things.' During the course of our day school we will attempt to analyse the 'artistic form' of the novel and to examine the 'sequence of things' it organises. We will also discuss the major themes of the novel: justice, love and sexuality, industrialisation and its affect on rural lives and landscapes. Each session will begin with a short lecture introducing the topic, followed by close-readings and discussion.

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 for small amounts of specific 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 In this first session, we will begin by outlining the context of the writing of <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> , its place in Hardy's oeuvre and the history of its publication and reception. Preparation: Please read Hardy's 'Preface' to the first and fifth editions of the novel. If your edition does not include the prefaces, you can read them here: http://thethomashardyassociation.org/novels-page/prefaces/td.htm
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: Realism, Naturalism and Poetry Hardy's work is often described as 'realist' but throughout the nineteenth-century there were debates about what the realist novel was or should be. In this session, we will look at Hardy's understanding of realism and contrast it with other forms of writing in the period, notably 'scientific naturalism'. Preparation: Please read the beginning of Chapter 43 up to 'they lived all this afternoon in memories of green, sunny, romantic Talbothays.' What do you note about the way Hardy describes the women in this scene? What methods does he use to sketch them for us and how far would you describe the writing as realist? If you have time, you may also wish to read Hardy's essay 'The Science of Fiction' which appeared in 1893. It can be found online here: http://people.stfx.ca/rnemesva/hardy/science.html
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Hardy's Heroine The subtitle of Hardy's novel insists that Tess is a 'pure woman'. What does this description mean for Hardy? We will examine this description – or argument – in the light of nineteenth-century ideas about womanhood and chastity. Preparation: Please look carefully at the descriptions of Tess dotted through the novel. Her beauty is an important part of the novel's plot, but what other function does it have? How does Hardy make her a complex character rather than portraying her as a simple country girl or victim of circumstance?
15:15	Tea

15:30 – 16:45

Session 4: Justice and ‘the ache of modernity’

In this final session we will tackle two of the novel’s central themes: the indictment of society’s version of justice and Hardy’s analysis of industrialisation and modernity.

Preparation: Please read the final chapter of the novel, especially the last few paragraphs. Why does Hardy choose not to show us the moment of Tess’ execution? Please look also at the passage where Tess comes to Alec’s home in Chapter 5 (from around the line ‘She alighted from the van at Tantridge Cross’ up to Alec’s appearance. How does Hardy use the settings to talk about the economic realities of his day and class relations?

16:45

Day school ends

Reading and resources list

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

Bullen, J. B.	<i>Thomas Hardy: The World of His Novels</i>	2013: Frances Lincoln
Dugdale, Florence.	<i>The Life of Thomas Hardy</i>	1933: repr. 2007 Wordsworth Literary Lives
Ingham, Patricia.	<i>Thomas Hardy</i>	2003: Oxford University Press
Kramer, Dale ed.	<i>The Cambridge Companion to Thomas Hardy</i>	1999: Cambridge University Press
Millgate, Michael ed.	<i>The Collected Letters of Thomas Hardy</i> nb. there are seven volumes of Hardy's letters! One to read in the library.	Oxford University Press
Millgate, Michael.	<i>Thomas Hardy: A Biography Revisited</i>	2004: Oxford University Press
Tomalin, Claire.	<i>Thomas Hardy: The Time-torn Man.</i>	2006: Viking

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: 08 April 2016