

The Short Stories of Katherine Mansfield

Start date 21 October 2016 **End date** 23 October 2016

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Professor Jem Poster **Course code** 1617NRX029

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
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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	Session 1 Introduction; 'Prelude'
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2 'Bliss'
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3 'The Wind Blows'; 'A Dill Pickle'
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Session 4 'The Escape'; 'At the Bay'
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Session 5 'At the Bay' continued; 'The Garden Party'
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6 'Marriage à la Mode'; 'Miss Brill'
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 7 'An Ideal Family'; conclusion
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

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

Content:

'I was jealous of her writing,' Virginia Woolf wrote in her journal after Katherine Mansfield's death, adding that it was the only writing she had ever been jealous of. This course will examine a selection of Mansfield's short stories, locating them within the tradition of literary modernism and examining their background: the early years in New Zealand, the later life in England and continental Europe and Mansfield's passionate engagement with both life and art. We shall focus on 10 stories drawn from her two most significant collections, *Bliss and Other Stories* and *The Garden-Party and Other Stories*; **please read these stories in advance of the course and bring them with you, as we shall be looking at them in detail.** The cheapest text is the Wordsworth Classics edition of the *Collected Stories*, but you can use any edition that contains all of the stories to be studied, namely:

'Prelude'; 'Bliss'; 'The Wind Blows'; 'A Dill Pickle'; 'The Escape'; 'At the Bay'; 'The Garden Party'; 'Marriage à la Mode'; 'Miss Brill'; 'An Ideal Family'.

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 stories 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 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
Tomalin, Claire	<i>Katherine Mansfield: A Secret Life</i>	Penguin, 2012

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: 09 June 2016