

## Art, Architecture and Society in the Age of Reynolds

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**Start date** 14 October 2016**End date** 16 October 2016**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge**Tutor** Miss Madeline Edmead**Course code** 1617NRX014**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](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

I studied at Bristol University for a BA Hons in History and the History of Art and then for an MA at the Courtauld Institute specialising in the History of English Architecture in the Eighteenth Century. Between the two I was assistant secretary for the Georgian Group, an amenity society specialising in eighteenth century architecture. I have been teaching for the WEA for many years as well as for other organisations. I taught the history of architecture and of gardens for Birkbeck College until 2013. I have led several courses for Madingley including a course on Art, architecture and society in the age of Hogarth.

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## Course programme

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### 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 to Art and Society in the later 18c
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	The Grand Tour
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Shopping and Exhibitions
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	The Theatre
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Reynolds and Celebrity
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Sensibility – Depicting children and families
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Touring England
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

To introduce students to the art and ideas of Reynolds and his contemporaries

To show how the art and architecture of the Reynolds period reflects broad themes in social development

To suggest ways in which students can deepen their appreciation of the work of Reynolds and his contemporaries

### Content:

The later eighteenth century was a period of rapid change. We will start by introducing some of the big themes such as the rise of patriotism at a time when British power was growing, and the re-examination of the classical world. Both relate to the journeys to Italy and beyond made by elite men and increasingly by artists such as Reynolds. Wealth was also spent on consumer goods and on entertainment. One of the lectures will relate consumerism to the fashion for exhibitions, above all to the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Reynolds as President of the Royal Academy played an important part in this.

Theatre was also widely popular, with lavish venues and well publicised actors, like Reynolds's acquaintance David Garrick. This was an age that loved celebrity, gossip and scandal. Reynolds was able to exploit this in a series of portraits of the famous and infamous which are among his best work. Portraits were central to Reynolds's career and they can tell us about social attitudes as well as the appearance of the sitters. Another boom aspect was the portraiture of children. We will discuss why this is and what it tells us.

Finally we will examine the taste for exploring the British countryside and how it was reflected in painting, architecture and the design of gardens.

### Presentation of the course:

The sessions will be lectures illustrated with slides and students are encouraged to participate throughout, contributing their own ideas and asking and answering questions. The atmosphere is usually friendly and informal.

### Outcomes:

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

Recognise significant contexts for works of art created in the later eighteenth century

Identify some of the main themes in English cultural life in the age of Reynolds

Assess Reynolds as a central figure in the evolution of art and taste in his period

Develop confidence in your insights into works of art in this period

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## Reading and resources list

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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.

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Author	Title	Publisher and date
Dana Arnold ed	<i>The Georgian Country House</i>	Sutton Publishing 1998
Jeremy Black	<i>The British Abroad: The Grand Tour in the eighteenth Century</i>	Sutton Publishing 2003
John Fleming	<i>Robert Adam in Edinburgh and Rome</i>	John Murray 1962
	<i>British Landscape Painting of the Eighteenth Century</i>	Faber and Faber 1973
Moira Goff et al	<i>Georgians Revealed</i>	British Library 2013
	<i>Georgian Gardens</i>	
David Jacques	<i>A Polite and Commercial People</i>	Batsford 1983
Paul Langford	<i>Reynolds</i>	Oxford 1998
Nicholas Penny ed		RA 1986
Nicholas Penny and Francis Haskell	<i>Taste and the Antique</i>	Yale 1981
	<i>Joshua Reynolds: The creation of Celebrity</i>	
Martin Postle ed	<i>The Art of Domestic Life</i>	Tate 2005
Kate Retford	<i>Discourses</i>	Yale 2006
Joshua Reynolds	<i>Gainsborough</i>	Tate 2002
Michael Rosenthal, Martin Myrone eds		
David Solkin ed	<i>Art on the Line</i>	Yale 2001
David Solkin	<i>Painting for Money</i>	
John Summerson	<i>Architecture in Britain 1530-1830</i>	Yale 1992
Tom Williamson	<i>Polite Landscapes</i>	Yale various editions
Andrew Wilton and Anne Lyles	<i>The Great Age of British Watercolour</i>	Sutton Publishing 1995
		RA 1993

## 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:* 12 July 2016