

Hauntings: Victorian Ghost Stories

Start date	5 November 2016	Time	10.00 – 16.45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Judith Braid, Ulrike Horstmann-Guthrie	Course code	161NDX006

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 biographies

Dr Judith Braid

Judith has had wide experience teaching French and English at secondary and tertiary levels, including at the University College of Wales. After a doctorate on Balzac she specialised in teaching 19th and 20th century literature. She has taught mature students at the Open University and more recently at the University of the Third Age in Cambridge. Her current research interests are in the development of the genre of detective fiction, both British and European.

Mrs Ulrike Horstmann-Guthrie

Ulrike Horstmann-Guthrie received her undergraduate degree in English, American, Russian and German Literature from the University of Hamburg in 1977 and her M.Phil. in General and Comparative Literature from the University of Oxford in 1981. From 1977 she held lecturing posts at Leicester, Oxford, Manchester and Leeds Universities, and since 1985 has taught for the Institute of Continuing Education and the Department of German at the University of Cambridge. While teaching literature from 1700 to the present day, her particular interest centres on 19th-century fiction and she has published on English and German writers in their cultural and historical contexts, exploring connections and mutual influences.

Course programme

Please note that the set text is Michael Cox and R.A. Gilbert, eds., *The Oxford Book of Victorian Ghost Stories* (OUP 1991, paperback). Please note that the course will be taught with the expectation that students will be familiar with all of the stories listed.

9:30		Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee
10.00 – 11:15	Session 1	Setting the scene: the social and literary context of the genre
11.15	Coffee	
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2	Fact or fiction?: R.S.Hawker, <i>The Botathen Ghost</i> ; Mrs Henry Wood, <i>Reality or Delusion?</i> ; Amelia B. Edwards, <i>Was it an Illusion?</i> ; M.R. James, <i>Canon Alberic's Scrap-book</i>
13:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3	Haunted Houses: J.S.LeFanu, <i>An Account...</i> ; Rhoda Broughton, <i>The Truth...</i> ; Anon, <i>The Story of Clifford House</i> ; Charlotte Riddell, <i>The Open Door</i> ; B.M. Croker, 'To Let'; Perceval Landon, <i>Thurnley Abbey</i> .
15:15	Tea	
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4	Avenging Females: E Gaskell, <i>The Old Nurse's Story</i> ; Henry James, <i>The Romance...</i> ; M.L. Molesworth, <i>The Story of the Rippling Train</i> Conclusions and Resonances
16:45		Day school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To provide an overview of the ghost story in the period of its heyday.
2. To appreciate a variation of themes and techniques through close textual analysis.

Content:

Why were the Victorians so fascinated by the after-life, by ghostly visions and haunted houses? This course will begin by exploring the social context and the widespread fascination with psychical phenomena. Widespread as well as local: the Society for Psychical Research was founded in 1882 by Cambridge dons Frederick Myers and Henry Sidgwick. We shall then look at the literary background of the genre from gothic via sensation fiction, and finally probe narrative techniques, themes and settings of specific examples. As we shall see, writers' approaches vary considerably, from an obsession with the question whether a sighting was "real" or an illusion and whether it is tied to a specific place, to a preoccupation with women who broke the conventions in the past and end up haunting those who punished them for it.

Our basis will be a selection from *The Oxford Book of Victorian Ghost Stories*, which it is hoped students will have read prior to the course.

Presentation of the course:

The course will consist of informal lectures and some close analysis of key extracts from the stories.

Outcomes:

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

1. Show a wider knowledge of the subject, its origins and its legacy.
2. Demonstrate skills of close reading in response to different passages.

Reading and resources list

* **Set text:** Michael Cox and R.A. Gilbert, eds., *The Oxford Book of Victorian Ghost Stories* (OUP 1991, paperback)

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
Blum, Deborah	<i>Ghost Hunters</i>	Arrow 2007
Briggs, Julia	<i>Night Visitors: The Rise and Fall of the English Ghost Story</i>	Faber 1977

Website addresses

victorianweb.org

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 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: 09 September 2016