

One day, one novel: *On the Road*

Start date 9 April 2017 **Time** 10:00 – 16:45

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Andy Wimbush **Course code** 1617NDX040

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, 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

Andy Wimbush holds a PhD in English from the University of Cambridge. He specialises in the study of twentieth-century and contemporary literature, particularly experimental fiction, the relationship between literature and religion, and the work of Samuel Beckett and B.S. Johnson. His research has been published in *The Journal of Beckett Studies*, *Literature and Theology*, and various academic books. Andy has taught at the University of Cambridge since 2013 and is an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: An introduction to Kerouac and the Beat Movement
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: The genesis of <i>On the Road</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Kerouac, Zen and mysticism
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Group discussion
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To introduce students to Beat Movement and other historical contexts relevant to Kerouac's work
- To explore the genesis of a literary text, from manuscript to printed version

Content:

This one-day course will introduce students to Jack Kerouac's defining novel of the 'Beat' Movement, *On the Road*. We will explore how the novel sits alongside the work of other prominent Beat writers, including Gary Snyder and Allen Ginsburg, and how Kerouac evolved the novel from personal experience, through a frantic writing process to the finished text. We will also discuss the novel as a spiritual quest narrative, by exploring Kerouac's description of himself as a 'strange solitary crazy Catholic mystic' and the Beat Movement's fascination with Zen Buddhism.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be offered in a seminar format with a mixture of mini-lectures using slides and group discussion.

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

- To discuss the core themes, formal devices, and historical context of *On the Road* in an informed and reflective manner.
- To analyse literary texts in close detail, with reference to imagery, vocabulary, and tone.

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
Michael McClure	<i>Scratching the Beat Surface: Essays on New Vision from Blake to Kerouac</i>	Penguin 1994
(ed.) Ann Charters	<i>The Portable Beat Reader</i>	Penguin, 2006

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: 22 November 2016