
Course programme

9:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee
10.00 – 11:15	Session 1 Introduction; The Road to <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> (i): <i>Homage to Catalonia</i>
11.15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2 The Road to <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> (ii): <i>Animal Farm</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3 <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> . Truth, Lies and Fiction
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4 <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> . Knowledge, Ignorance and Power; conclusion
16:45	Day school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To explore the relationship between Orwell's work and its wider context;
2. To analyse the texts under review;
3. To gain a clearer sense of the author's achievement.

Content:

The past few months have seen a dramatic upsurge of interest in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*: recent political events have made its dark vision appear startlingly relevant. After examining two works crucial to an understanding of the development of that vision (Orwell's account of his experience of the Spanish Civil War, *Homage to Catalonia*, and his political fable, *Animal Farm*) we shall spend two sessions discussing *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in detail, focusing on such matters as truth and falsehood, knowledge and ignorance, and asking ourselves how far Orwell's warnings can help us to understand the disjointed times in which we live.

Participants will benefit most fully from the course if they have read the three books mentioned above, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, being the most important of them in the present context.

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 texts themselves, which will be examined in detail.

Outcomes:

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

1. Place the author in his wider context and understand more clearly the implications and meaning of his work;
2. Gain greater confidence in their approach to the analysis of literary works 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
Taylor, D.J.	Orwell: The Life	Vintage, 2004

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: 28 February 2017