

Hamlet and the revenge tradition

Start date	7 July 2017	End date	9 July 2017
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutors	David Crane and James Morwood	Course code	1617NRX088

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
For further information on this course, please contact clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

James Morwood teaches at Oxford University where he is an Emeritus Fellow of Wadham College, and his association with Madingley goes back to the 1980s, having taught many courses there in both Classics and English. He has written a book on Sheridan and (with David Crane) edited another. He has contributed to the Macmillan Casebook on Tom Stoppard, has translated eleven plays of Euripides for the Oxford World's Classics series and produced an edition of that dramatist's *Suppliant Women*.

The most recent of his many publications are *Hadrian* (Bloomsbury, 2013), *A Little Greek Reader* (with Stephen Anderson, Oxford University Press, 2015) and a new edition of *The Tragedies of Euripides* (Bloomsbury, 2016). Forthcoming in 2017 are editions of Book 3 of Virgil's *Aeneid* (with Stephen Heyworth, Oxford University Press) and Euripides's *Iphigenia in Aulis* (with Christopher Collard, Liverpool University Press). In the field of English literature, he has written on Tom Stoppard, including, with David Crane, the landmark *Sheridan Studies*.

As a teacher, James's main aim is to create a situation in which free and thoughtful discussion can take place. He likes to vary the fare on offer by showing a relevant film (the film of the book if possible) on the Saturday evening of his Madingley courses.

David Crane now teaches literature and philosophy privately, following many years at the University of Durham. He has edited Sheridan's *The Critic* for the New Mermaids series and, with James Morwood, a book of essays on Sheridan, besides Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for the New Cambridge Shakespeare, and a number of other seventeenth-century plays. David has been very much involved in theatrical production, largely of Shakespeare, and is particularly interested in the changing styles of both performance on the stage and audience reaction from 16th century to the present in England and France.

He believes strongly that teaching is not only the delivery of information or opinion, but, most valuably, learning through sympathetic discussion. It is not the case that one human being sits at the feet of another, rather that something one human being says may chime with, or trigger off, something inside another. His courses reflect this conviction, so he hopes, with a strong focus on participation, encouraged by a love and enthusiasm for the English language and its literature.

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: Taking Bearings
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2: The Spanish Tragedy
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3: The Jew of Malta
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Session 4: The Revenger's Tragedy
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Session 5: Film of Hamlet
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6: Hamlet
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 7: Summing up
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

***Hamlet* and the Revenge Tradition**

It might be said that the place of revenge in human society and its extension into marginally more respectable forms like justice and divine retribution was the major preoccupation of English tragic drama of the Elizabethan and Jacobean period. We shall explore the range of what revenge offered to a contemporary audience and what it offers still to a modern audience, in a short course devoted to plays by Shakespeare (*Hamlet*), Marlowe (*The Jew of Malta*), Kyd (*The Spanish Tragedy*), and Middleton (*The Revenger's Tragedy*).

Aims:

We shall explore the range of what revenge offered to a contemporary audience in the Elizabethan/Jacobean period.

We hope to explore the success or otherwise of four dramatists, at least two of them supreme masters of their genre, in handling this theme.

Content:

We shall explore the range of what revenge offered to a contemporary audience and what it offers still to a modern audience, in a short course devoted to plays by Shakespeare (*Hamlet*), Marlowe (*The Jew of Malta*), Kyd (*The Spanish Tragedy*), and Middleton (*The Revenger's Tragedy*).

Presentation of the course:

Reading of scenes from the plays and discussion

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

We hope that:

students will have achieved an enhanced appreciation of the moral and ethical issues explored in these plays;

they will have won through to an understanding of how such issues have been handled dramatically;

they will have enhanced their appreciation of the vitality and dramatical power of these plays.

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
Thomas Kyd	The Spanish Tragedy	any edition
Christopher Marlowe	The Jew of Malta	any edition
Thomas Middleton	The Revenger's Tragedy	any edition
William Shakespeare	Hamlet	any edition

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: 04 May 2017