

## One Day, One Novel: *Mansfield Park*

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<b>Date</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	<b>Time</b>	10:00 – 16:45
<b>Venue</b>	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
<b>Tutor</b>	Dr Jenny Bavidge	<b>Course code</b>	1718NDX015

**Director of Programmes**

Emma Jennings

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

Jenny Bavidge is University Senior Lecturer in English Literature, Academic Director in English Literature for the Institute of Continuing Education and a Fellow in English at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. She is a Fellow of the English Academy. Jenny is Past-President of the Literary London Society and conference coordinator for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Her publications have included work on London in literature, children's literature, ecocriticism, and rats.

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## Course programme

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09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	<b>Introduction - A tour of Mansfield Park, its inhabitants, principle sights and notable features</b>  This first session will provide an introduction and context for our reading of <i>Mansfield Park</i> . We will consider the place of the novel in Austen's oeuvre and the critical responses the novel has inspired from its publication to the present day.
11.15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	<b>Understanding Fanny</b>  “... a vile, sneaking, simpering, demure, monosyllabic, mouselike, watery, insignificant, virginal, bread-and-butter miss ... A two-faced little cheat [...] who looks as if she'd faint at the sight of blood, and then dies with a smile ... Filthy, insipid little prude!” (Screwtape the Demon, in CS Lewis' <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> .)  This session will focus on Fanny. Readers may not despise her as much as Lewis' Screwtape but she is often described as Austen's least engaging heroine. Why did Austen write Fanny as she did? What does the novel say about her motivations and desires and how is Fanny contrasted with its other female characters?
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	<b>Religion and Morality in <i>Mansfield Park</i></b>  Following on from our discussion of virtue and vice in Session 2, this session will explore the role of religion in the novel and follow through the moral questions posed by the novel. We'll think too about the modern critical readings which have foregrounded the novel's background of slavery and abolitionist politics.
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	<b>Mapping <i>Mansfield Park</i>, place and estate in the novel</b>  In this final session, we'll look at the description of Mansfield Park itself, and the idea of the well-run estate, connecting with pastoral traditions in English literature. We'll also take some time in this section to look at contemporary television and film adaptations of the novel to see how they visualise and adapt the world created by the novel.
16:45	Day-school ends

## Course syllabus

### Aims:

- to introduce students to *Mansfield Park*, encouraging depth of reading and critical attention to the novel and to encourage an enjoyable atmosphere in which to discuss and debate
- to investigate questions about literary style, form and content
- to place students' own reading and knowledge of the novel in a broad context of literary, historical and critical contexts

### Content:

Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* was the third of Austen's novels to be published, appearing in 1814. While it shares many of the same concerns of her earlier works (marriage, money, morals), there is a widening of the social world we find in *Pride and Prejudice* or *Sense and Sensibility*. Within and without the walls of Mansfield Park, we encounter characters and stories which touch on sadness and even 'vice'. Modern critics have also investigated the novel's relationship with the slave trade: the Bertrams' fortune has been built on their West Indian interests and the novel has more than one moment which glimpses at this troubling context. The day school gives us plenty of time to get deep into the details of specific scenes in the text and we will discuss its themes and style, as well as discussing critical responses to the novel in its own time and our own.

### Preparation for the course:

Please read the novel in its entirety before the course and bring a copy with you. You do not need a specific edition. If you are purchasing a new copy for the course then we recommend a scholarly edition such as Oxford World's Classics or Norton which will provide you with helpful notes and introductions.

You may also wish to watch some of the TV and film adaptations of *Mansfield Park*.

*Mansfield Park* (film, 1999, dir. Patricia Rozema)

*Mansfield Park* (TV, 2007, dir. Ian B. MacDonald)

Each session will begin with a short informal talk followed by structured class discussion. We will also view clips from recent adaptations of *Mansfield Park*.

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

- understand *Mansfield Park* in its literary and historical context
- be able to employ appropriate critical vocabulary to describe the style and form of *Mansfield Park*
- feel confident in their discussions of the themes and ideas explored in the novel

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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
Austen, Jane, ed. by Deirdre Le Faye	<i>Collected Letters of Jane Austen</i>	Oxford U P, 1997
Copeland, Edward and Juliet McMaster	<i>The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen</i>	Cambridge U P, 2011
Tanner, Tony,	<i>Jane Austen: A Life</i>	Macmillan, 1986
Janet Todd,	<i>Jane Austen in Context</i>	Cambridge UP, 2005

### Website addresses

**Jane Austen at the British Library:** <https://www.bl.uk/people/jane-austen>

Helpful essays and fascinating images of some of Austen's manuscripts

**Mansfield Park at Pemberley.com (not a University site but lots of scholarly resources and excellent lists!):** <http://pemberley.com/janeinfo/opmansfp.html>

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### Additional information

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#### 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](mailto: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:* 12 January 2018