

Kennedy, Nixon and LBJ on Film & Television

Start date	25 May 2018	End date	27 May 2018
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Colin Shindler	Course code	1718NRX057

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Colin Shindler has maintained an active interest in twentieth-century American and British social and cultural history whilst pursuing a wide-ranging career as a writer and producer in television, radio and motion pictures, and as an author of books and journalism for over thirty years.

He graduated with a degree in History from Cambridge and remained to complete his PhD thesis later published as *Hollywood in Crisis* (1996). His other monograph on Hollywood and American society was *Hollywood Goes to War* (1979). He has been lecturing and teaching undergraduates and postgraduates at Cambridge since 1998 but he is best known as the screenwriter of *Buster* starring Phil Collins and Julie Walters, the producer of the BBC drama series *Lovejoy* and as the author of the childhood memoir *Manchester United Ruined My Life* (1998).

He wrote and presented *Sport and the Movies* for BBC Radio Four's *Archive on Four* in November 2010 as well as a monthly newsletter for The Film Programme. Little Brown published his new bestseller, an oral history of National Service in May 2012 and on the same day Headline brought out the second part of his autobiography *Manchester City Ruined My Life*. He has been frequently heard on The Today programme and PM on Radio 4 which recently broadcast *Rumours*, his feature length play on *Private Eye* and the *Profumo Affair*. *Four Lions: The Lives and Times of Four England Football Captains* is a study of post-war English social and cultural history as a mirror of social history and was published in May 2016. His most recent book "I'm Sure I Speak for Many Others" is a look at unpublished letters from the general public of viewers and listeners which have been languishing in the BBC Archives complaining about BBC programmes.

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	Screening: All The Way starring Bryan Cranston as Lyndon B Johnson
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Kennedy & Nixon: The Early Days and the 1960 Election
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Dallas 22 November 1963
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Jack and Jackie & Dick and Pat
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Screening: Frost/Nixon starring Michael Sheen & Frank Langella
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Watergate
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Enduring Film Images of Three Presidents
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

To understand the part the media played in the creation of a Presidential image

To re-evaluate the records of three Presidents since their time in office

To see if the students' image of the Presidents at the start of the course is changed by the time the course is completed

Content:

The course will include two sessions devoted to screenings of recent films which reflect current perceptions of two of the presidents – LBJ and Nixon. There is probably more material in the course on Kennedy than these two. Throughout the other sessions we will also refer to clips from a variety of sources to enrich and illustrate the class discussion. Key themes covered will include a comparison of JFK and LBJ and their relations with Congress, the three presidents reaction of Civil Rights, JFK and Cuba and the domestic and family life of the Kennedys. All these have been subject to significant historical and journalistic discussion, some of it serious, some of it scurrilous or hagiographical. We will attempt to distinguish fact from fiction and myth from reality as the course covers these key areas.

Presentation of the course:

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

- Develop a greater critical appreciation of the realities behind the public image of JFK
- Develop a greater sense of how film may be used as source material by historians
- Gain insight into ways in which public figures' reputations are shaped and transformed
- Gain a greater knowledge of the career of LBJ and of his relationship with JFK
- Develop a fuller appreciation of the development over five decades of the image and reputation of JFK and his relationship with Richard Nixon
- Offer their own assessment of the career and reputation of the three presidents

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
Robert Dallek	Camelot's Court: Inside the Kennedy White House	Harper Collins 2013
Robert Dallek	John F. Kennedy: An Unfinished Life	O.U.P. 2011
Robert Dallek	Flawed Giant: Lyndon Johnson & His Times 1961-1973	O.U.P. 1998
Robert Caro	The Years of Lyndon Johnson	Cape 2002
Christopher Matthews	Kennedy & Nixon	Free Press 2011
Bob Woodward & Carl Bernstein	All the President's Men	Quartet Books 1979
David Greenberg	Nixon's Shadow: The History of an Image	W.W. Norton 2004

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: 27 April 2018