

Emily Brontë Bicentenary: Wuthering Heights and poems

Start date 16 September 2018 **End date** 16 September 2018

Venue Madingley Hall
 Madingley
 Cambridge

Tutor Dr Lucy Sheerman **Course code** 1819NDX001

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

**For further information on this
course, please contact** Academic Centre Coordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Lucy Sheerman holds a BA and PhD in English from the University of Cambridge. She specialises in the work of the Brontës and its influence on more recent creative and critical writing. She also has expertise in twentieth century and contemporary literature, particularly innovative poetry.

She has been working on the influence of the Brontës, leading to the publication of both creative and critical work relating to the Brontës and their legacy. In addition to giving numerous papers at academic conferences she has taught at a wide variety of educational settings.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Introduction – Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange, their inhabitants, settings and style
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	True Romance: depictions of love (and hate) in the novel
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Authority – telling tales in <i>Wuthering Heights</i>
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	The natural world in <i>Wuthering Heights</i> and Emily Brontë's poetry
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To introduce students to the life and work of Emily Brontë
- To explore how Brontë's writing can be illuminated through the study of materials relating to her work, such as letters, journals and biography
- To help students understand allusions in the text by exploring literary influences on *Wuthering Heights*
- To support students to approach the texts through close reading and personal reflection

Content:

A discussion of the poet and novelist Emily Brontë in her Bicentenary year. *Wuthering Heights*, her only surviving novel, was published, like her poems, under a male pseudonym and met with a lukewarm reception. It is now regarded as a classic of English Literature. This one day course will invite students to explore how the vividly realised imaginary childhood worlds of Gondal and Angria which she created with her siblings shaped Brontë's novel and poems by examining letters, juvenilia and journals alongside the texts.

We will also examine key literary influences on the novel, from writers such as Byron and Hogg and, through her father's fierce presence, the bible and classical texts. We will then explore the ideas and influences which shaped the novel's themes of extraordinary love, hate and power. Finally, we will take a look at representations of the natural world in both the novel and the poems. There will be plenty of scope during the day for students to bring their own interests and reflections to our exploration of the novel and poems, as well as opportunities to examine sections of the novel and poems in close detail.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be presented through a mixture of presentations, group discussions, and reading exercises.

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

- To discuss the core themes and literary-historical context of *Wuthering Heights* and Brontë's selected poems in an informed and reflective manner.
- To use and biographical and contextual material to illuminate the study of a literary work.
- To analyse literary texts in close detail, with reference to language and structure

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
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Criticism

Allot, Miriam (ed.), *Wuthering Heights, A Casebook* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1970; revised edn., 1992). A useful guide to criticism up to 1970.

Alexander, Christine, *The Brontës, Tales of Glass Town, Angria and Gondal: Selected Early Writings* (Oxford: Oxford World's Classics 2010). An authoritative and scholarly edition of Bronte juvenilia.

Editions

*Brontë, Emily, *Wuthering Heights* (Oxford: Clarendon Press 1976). This is the most scholarly text but any edition will do.

*Roper, Derek (ed.), with Edward Chitham, *The Poems of Emily Brontë* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994). Again, the most scholarly text, but any edition of the poems will do.

Biography

Gaskell, Elizabeth, *The Life of Charlotte Brontë* (1857; Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1975).

There is very little information written by Emily about herself. Most biographies are therefore based on Gaskell's account.

Barker, Juliet, *The Brontës* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1994). A comprehensive account of the family and good place to look for more information about their lives.

Website addresses

Responses to Brontë's work

All the Brontës have inspired new works of fiction, art and film. The bicentenary has seen a year of celebrations and reflections by contemporary artists hosted by the Bronte Parsonage Museum. See <https://www.bronte.org.uk/what's-on/news/215/emily-brontes-bicentenary-celebrations>

See also *The Glass Essay* by Anne Carson www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/48636/the-glass-essay

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: 20 August 2018