

Ghost stories from Dickens to the present day

Start date 2 December 2018 **End date** 2 December 2018

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Ulrike Horstmann-Guthrie, **Course code** 1819NDX014
MA, MPhil

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

Ulrike Horstmann-Guthrie received her undergraduate degree in English, American, Russian and German Literature from the University of Hamburg in 1977 and her M.Phil. in General and Comparative Literature from the University of Oxford in 1981. From 1977 she held lecturing posts at Leicester, Oxford, Manchester and Leeds Universities, and since 1985 has taught for the Institute of Continuing Education and the Department of German at the University of Cambridge. While teaching literature from 1700 to the present day, her particular interest centres on 19th-century fiction and she has published on English and German writers in their cultural and historical contexts, exploring connections and mutual influences.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1 Introduction: contexts
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2 Dr Susan Owens: The Appearance of Ghosts
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3 <i>The Signalman</i> and <i>The Jolly Corner</i>
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4 <i>The Demon Lover</i> and <i>Coffin Liquor</i>
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To consider the development of the genre from its 19th- century heyday to the present
2. To investigate a variation of themes and techniques through close textual analysis.

Content:

What is it that makes ghost stories such a popular genre? It was long thought that it reached its pinnacle in the Victorian period but since then, many writers have tried their hand at it, and while approaches have changed, the fascination continues. Dr Susan Owens, author of *The Ghost: A Cultural History* will help us get to grips with the phenomenon, talking about the physical appearance of ghosts, and how in literary and pictorial descriptions this changes over time, reflecting the way ideas about such apparitions have developed.

We then analyse a traditional example, Dickens's *The Signalman*, together with Henry James's *The Jolly Corner*, which demonstrates an interest in the psychological connection (as the same author does so powerfully in *The Turn of the Screw*). Elizabeth Bowen's enigmatic *The Demon Lover* continues this emphasis, while John Lanchester's recent "Coffin Liquor" (*London Review of Books*, 4 January 2018) appears to be a return to the traditional type.

Presentation of the course:

The course will consist of informal lectures and some close analysis of the stories with an emphasis on class discussion.

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

1. Show a wider knowledge of the subject, its origins and its legacy.
2. Demonstrate skills of close reading in response to different passages.

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
*Bowen, Elizabeth	The Demon Lover (1941)	Collected Stories, ed. Angus Wilson; Vintage
*Dickens, Charles	The Signalman (1866)	online (Project Gutenberg), many paperback editions
*James, Henry	The Jolly Corner (1908)	"
*Lanchester, John	Coffin Liquor (2018)	<i>London Review of Books</i> , 4 January 2018
Blum, Deborah	<i>Ghost Hunters</i>	Arrow 2007
Briggs, Julia	<i>Night Visitors: The Rise and Fall of the English Ghost Story</i>	Faber 1977
Owens, Susan	<i>The Ghost: A Cultural History</i>	Tate 2017

Website addresses

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: 19 November 2018