



Poetry Masterclass: "In Time's grace, the grace of change" – the poetry of W.S. Graham

Start date 22 February 2019

End date 25 February 2019

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Roger Garfitt

Course code 1819NRX020

Director of Academic Centres Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact

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

Tutor biography

A freelance writer ever since he won the Gregory Award in 1974, Roger Garfitt has been Poetry Critic of *London Magazine*, Editor of *Poetry Review*, Writing Fellow at UEA and Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Swansea University. The CD of *In All My Holy Mountain*, his celebration in poetry & jazz of the life and work of Mary Webb, recorded with the John Williams Octet to a score by Nikki Iles, was hailed in *The Guardian* as "an imaginative and illuminating addition to the genre." It is available from www.jazzcds.co.uk. His *Selected Poems* is published by Carcanet and a new collection, *The Action*, is forthcoming. His memoir, *The Horseman's Word*, was shortlisted for the PEN/Ackerley Prize and is a Vintage paperback.

Course programme

Friday 22 February

Please plan to arrive between 14.00 and 15:30. You can meet other course members at Tea, which will be served in the Terrace bar at 16:00. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Opening seminar on <i>The Nightfishing</i> and <i>Seven Letters</i> . Please bring two of your own poems for photocopying for the Evening Readaround.
19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Evening Readaround: a chance for the students to showcase their own work and get to know each other. We will set up a book table and you are welcome to bring copies of your own books and pamphlets to sell.
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday 23 February

08:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Individual Tutorials and Work on the First Writing Assignment: you are welcome to bring a folder of existing work to discuss with the tutor.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Individual Tutorials and Work on the First Writing Assignment.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00 – 16:30	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Seminar on Malcolm Mooney's <i>Land</i> and <i>The Dark Dialogues</i> . Please bring your work on the First Writing Assignment ready for photocopying.
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30 – 20:00	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Group Workshop on the First Writing Assignment.
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday 24 February

08:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Individual Tutorials and Work on the Second Writing Assignment.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Individual Tutorials and Work on the Second Writing Assignment.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00 – 16:30	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Seminar on Implements in Their Places
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30 – 20:00	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Closing Seminar on Johann Joachim Quantz's Five Lessons.
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Monday 25 February

08:00	Breakfast. Please have your work on the Second Writing Assignment ready for photocopying.
09:00 – 10:30	Group Workshop on the Second Writing Assignment.
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Group Workshop on the Second Writing Assignment. This is also a chance to discuss any problem poems you may have brought with you and explore any difficulties thrown up in the course of the assignments.
13:00	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To give an overview of W.S. Graham's development, from his extraordinary long poem *The Nightfishing* to his journey through the solitudes of *Malcolm Mooney's Land* and his playful probing of "the formal barrier between / You and I".
- To give students the chance to explore different kinds of identity in the writing assignments and develop different formal approaches for them.

Content: A study of the long poem, *The Nightfishing*, and of successive sequences from the *New Collected Poems*.

Presentation of the course: Close reading and discussion in the seminars of the successive stages of W.S. Graham's work, with particular attention to the movement from the strong communal identity of his early years in Greenock to the increasing isolation of his final years in Cornwall.

Two writing assignments, to be undertaken in close consultation with the tutor in individual tutorials, and offered for friendly and supportive discussion in the group workshops. An optional third assignment to be suggested for students to complete in their own time after the course has ended and post on the online workshop.

Outcomes:

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

- Follow the development of Graham's work from *The Nightfishing* to *Implements in Their Places* and appreciate the different formal approaches he adopted as he moved from the security of "I am / My fruitful share" to those moments "when who we think we are is suddenly / Flying apart".
- Have an experience of writing in different voices that reflect the different identities we inhabit at different points in our lives.

Reading and resources list

Author	Title	Publisher
Graham, W.S.	<i>New Collected Poems</i>	Faber, 2005
Graham, W.S.	<i>The Nightfisherman: Selected Letters</i>	Carcamet, 1999

Detailed reading list:

For the opening seminar, read *With All Many Men Laid Down in the Burial Heart* (*New Collected Poems*, p.62), 'The Nightfishing' (p.195) and 'Seven Letters' (p.121).

For the second seminar, read 'Malcolm Mooney's Land' (p.153), 'The Dark Dialogues' (p.167) and 'The Fifteen Devices' (p.183).

For the third seminar, read 'What is the Language Using Us For?' (p.199) and 'Implements in Their Places' (p. 240).

For the closing seminar, read 'Imagine a Forest' (p. 204), 'The Night City' (p. 215), 'Greenock at Night I Find You' (p. 219), 'To Alexander Graham' (p. 222), Johann Joachim 'Quantz's Five Lessons' (p. 228), 'Alice Where Art Thou' (p. 290) 'On the Other Side of Language' (p. 310) and 'The Greenock Dialogues' (p. 319).

Each section of *The Selected Letters* is introduced with a biographical summary and there are useful notes throughout so that, in the absence of a biography, they are an effective substitute.

Further reading:

For further reading I would recommend *The Poetry of W.S. Graham* by Tony Lopez (Edinburgh University Press, 1989).

Website addresses

<https://www.faber.co.uk/shop/poetry/9780571209897-new-collected-poems.html>

<https://www.carcenet.co.uk/cgi-bin/indexer?product=9781857544459>

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: 17 December 2018