
Fantastic Histories

Start date Sunday 28th April **End date** Sunday 28th April

Venue Madingley Hall
 Madingley
 Cambridge

Tutor Ms Natasha Pulley **Course code** 1819NDX069

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact Head of Academic Centre Administration
 Katherine Roddwell
 katherine.roddwell@ice.cam.ac.uk | 01223 746 223

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746 262

Tutor biography

Natasha Pulley graduated from the University of Oxford with a bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature, and then from the University of East Anglia with a master's degree in Creative Writing. Her first novel, *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street*, was an international bestseller. She works as an associate lecturer at Bath Spa University, and a panel tutor at ICE.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Historical Fantasy
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Language and Style
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Gaps in History
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Disguising History
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To give students a chance to explore the links between historical fiction and fantasy, and experiment with the borders between the two in the classroom
- To help students deepen their fantasy work with real-world events and images.

Content:

Session 1: Introduction. What is historical fantasy, and why would anyone write it? Examples of writers who do it. We will talk about how nearly all fantasy fiction is historical in some way, and the negotiation between real-world and imaginary features.

Session 2: Language and Style: Susanna Clarke vs Zoe Gilbert. How do you go about conjuring a sense of the past in fantasy writing? Case studies of linguistic and stylistic techniques, and writing exercises.

Session 3: Where fantasy fits; finding the gaps in the historical record. Three examples of real historical events about which modern scholarship is hazy — and which make perfect foundations for fantasy stories. This session will end with a writing exercise based on interesting objects with strange histories.

Session 4: Disguising history. Some writers want to base a story on the Napoleonic Wars, or the colonisation of America, without using real historical detail — how do we do that without looking lazy, and how can we use real historical incidents but disguise them?

Presentation of the course:

The course will include short lectures, class discussions and reading and writing exercises.

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of how to use real history in fantasy writing
- Identify and research historical events that might be conducive to the introduction of fantastical elements

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Arden, Katherine	<i>The Bear and the Nightingale</i>	Ebury Digital, 2017
Clarke, Susanna	<i>Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell</i>	Bloomsbury, 2009
Gilbert, Zoe	<i>Folk</i>	Bloomsbury, 2017
Hearn, Lian	<i>Across the Nightingale Floor</i>	Picador, 2008
Hobb, Robin	<i>Shaman's Crossing</i>	HarperVoyager, 2008
Ishiguro, Kazuo	<i>The Buried Giant</i>	Faber&Faber, 2015
Kingsnorth, Paul	<i>The Wake</i>	Unbound, 2015
Moore, Thomas	<i>Utopia</i>	Penguin, 2012
Perry, Sarah	<i>Melmoth</i>	Serpent's Tail, 2018
Pratchett, Terry	<i>The Truth</i>	Transworld, 2010
Pulley, Natasha	<i>The Bedlam Stacks</i>	Bloomsbury, 2016
Shannon, Samantha	<i>The Priory of the Orange Tree</i>	Bloomsbury, 2019
Simmons, Dan	<i>The Terror</i>	Transworld, 2010
Swift, Jonathan	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	Harper Perennial, 2018

There is no essential reading. Extracts of relevant work will be provided on the day.

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: 17/12/2018