

## Changing Times I: The Songs of Bob Dylan

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**Start date** 9 February 2019      **End date** 9 February 2019

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Tutors** Professor Jem Poster      **Course code** 1819NDX025  
Stephen Ferron

**Director of ISP & Lifelong Learning** Sarah Ormrod

**For further information on this course, please contact** HoACA Lifelong Learning, Zara Kuckelhaus  
[zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746204

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biographies

**Jem Poster** worked as an archaeologist, surveying and excavating a range of sites on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, before taking up an administrative post with Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education in 1987. From 1993 to 2003 he was University Lecturer in Literature with Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education and a fellow of Kellogg College. From 2003 to 2012 he was Professor of Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University, and is now Emeritus Professor. He is the author of two novels, *Courting Shadows* (2002) and *Rifling Paradise* (2006), as well as a collection of poetry, *Brought to Light* (2001), and has recently completed volume 3 of the six-volume Oxford University Press *Edward Thomas: Prose Writings*. He has won prizes in major poetry competitions including first prize in both the Cardiff International Poetry Competition in 1995 and the Peterloo Poets Open Poetry Competition in 2001.

He has been Chair of the editorial board of Wales's leading literary journal, *New Welsh Review*, and is currently Programme Advisor to the Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education's MSt in Creative Writing and Director of its International Summer Programme in Creative Writing; he is an Affiliated Lecturer of the Institute. He is Director of Academic Programmes for the Financial Times Oxford Literary Festival and in 2014 spent four months as Writer in Residence at Arizona State University.

**Stephen Ferron**, who grew up in Colorado, received his first guitar and two Peter, Paul & Mary albums for Christmas when he was ten years old. He tuned the six-string with the help of a warped seven-inch 45 rpm single delivered in the cardboard guitar case and, it is fair to say, has tuned at

least one stringed instrument every day since. He became a full-time professional musician when he was 22 and in the following two decades, performed in 49 of America's 50 states, five Canadian provinces, several Asian countries and throughout Europe. In addition to some 5000 live performances, he has worked on hundreds of recording sessions as a producer, musician and arranger.

Stephen reduced his touring schedule in the 1990s to pursue a career in communications but has continued to work on musical projects that are close to his heart, including an album he is currently co-producing with the acoustic Americana group The Red Planet. His unlikely collection of academic qualifications includes an MA in World Music from the University of Sheffield. His even more unlikely collection of musical instruments includes a tenor guitar made in the year of his birth. The dealer described it as "a vintage American, in good condition, with certain signs of wear," words that resonate with its owner. Stephen lives in Switzerland.

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## Course programme

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09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	<b>Introduction; Folk and Protest</b>
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	<b>Bringing It All Back Home</b>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	<b>Highway 61 Revisited</b>
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	<b>Blonde on Blonde</b>

### **\*Additional Evening Package**

As an addition to the day schools we are delighted to be able to offer students an optional dinner followed by a musical celebration of both Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. This dinner take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30 pm followed by music provided by Stephen Ferron. The cost of the dinner and music celebration is £25 per person.

To book a place please contact Fleur Kerrecoe, Administrator Lifelong Learning [fleur.kerrecoe@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:fleur.kerrecoe@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746218.

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

1. to explore the relationships between Dylan's work and its wider context;
2. to analyse the songs under review;
3. to gain a clearer sense of the songwriter's achievement.

### Content:

Bob Dylan first appeared on the music scene in the early 1960s and he became one of the key players – arguably the most significant player of all – in the transformation of popular song during that turbulent decade. In a little over four feverishly productive years, from March 1962, when his first album was released, to May 1966 and the release of *Blonde on Blonde*, he wrote and recorded an astonishing series of songs – songs characterised by a striking individuality of style yet seeming somehow representative of the mood of the age. In this course we shall look closely at a selection of those songs, examining them in as much detail as is consistent with a fair representation of Dylan's remarkable range. We shall be relating the songs to Dylan's life and to their wider social and political context, but our primary focus will be the lyrics, the music and the relationship between the two.

### Presentation of the course:

The course will take the form of a series of seminars, in which group discussion will be actively encouraged; the majority of these discussions will focus on the songs themselves, which will be analysed in detail.

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

1. place the songwriter in his wider context and understand more clearly the implications and meaning of his work;
2. gain greater confidence in their approach to the analysis of literary and musical works in general.

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## Reading and resources list

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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
Dylan, Bob	<i>Chronicles</i>	Simon and Schuster, 2005
Ricks, Christopher	<i>Dylan's Visions of Sin</i>	Canongate, 2011
Sounes, Howard	<i>Down the Highway</i>	Doubleday, 2011

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## Additional information

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### 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](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746262.

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to a 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:* 15 January 2019