

Shakespeare and the refusal of tragedy

Start date 19th May 2019 **End date** 20th May 2019

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor David Crane **Course code** 1819NTX011

Director of Academic Centres Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus
zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746204

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

Tutor biography

David Crane now teaches literature and philosophy privately, following many years at the University of Durham. He has edited Sheridan's *The Critic* for the New Mermaids series and, with James Morwood, a book of essays on Sheridan, besides Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for the New Cambridge Shakespeare, and a number of other seventeenth-century plays. David has been very much involved in theatrical production, largely of Shakespeare, and is particularly interested in the changing styles of both performance on the stage and audience reaction from 16th century to the present in England and France.

He believes strongly that teaching is not only the delivery of information or opinion, but, most valuably, learning through sympathetic discussion. It is not the case that one human being sits at the feet of another, rather that something one human being says may chime with, or trigger off, something inside another. His courses reflect this conviction, so he hopes, with a strong focus on participation, encouraged by a love and enthusiasm for the English language and its literature.

Course programme

Sunday

Please plan to arrive between 10:00 and 12:00. You can meet other course members in the bar. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

13:00 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Session 1: Taking bearings

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 Session 2: *All's Well That Ends Well*

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 Session 3: *Measure for Measure*

Monday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 Session 4: *The Winter's Tale*

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Session 5: *The Tempest*

12:45 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Session 6: Conclusions

Course syllabus

Content:

To explore the conviction that in Shakespeare a happy ending can be as resonant, as unflinching, as courageously subtle as the exhausted death of Lear or the openly dramatic suicide of Othello, we shall consider four plays which in different, finally non-tragic ways engage fully the audience's ability to respond.

Presentation of the course:

Reading of scenes from the plays and discussion.

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

Different students will come to this course with their different understandings of these extremely complex plays, and it would be impossible to suppose that they might all leave with their minds changed in predictable ways. This is not what teaching literature means. However, the general intention behind this course might be described as being to question the fairly automatic and traditional assumption that tragedy is the most profound and searching mode of great writing. People will react to that questioning very individually, no doubt, and one of the things we shall be discussing is what each of us can understand of another's reaction. The matter is very unlikely to be simple. I hope it will not be!

Reading and resources li

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 *

*William Shakespeare	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>	(any edition)
*William Shakespeare	<i>Measure For Measure</i>	(any edition)
*William Shakespeare	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	(any edition)
*William Shakespeare	<i>The Tempest</i>	(any edition)

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: 24 April 2019