

Weekend Courses 2023-24**From Swift to Spitting Image: 300 years of British political humour****Start date:** 9 February 2024**End date:** 11 February 2024**Venue:** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ**Tutor:** Dr Graham McCann**Course Code:** 2324NRX019

Tutor biography

Graham McCann is a former Fellow of King's College, University of Cambridge, a Lecturer in Social and Political Theory, and the author of nineteen books. He now writes on a wide range of subjects, from politics to popular culture, and continues to teach on the history of political thought.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	The buzz of the bee: early modern irreverence
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	From sly words to sharp images
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Cinematic satire
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Common room satire
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Kitchen sink satire
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	The era of Yes Minister
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	The future of political satire
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

- appreciate the history of British political satire
- explore each era in more detail
- reflect on the future of the form

Summary of content:

The intellectual and political catalysts of modern British satire; the evolution of the form via the work of such figures as Swift, Pope, Hogarth, Gillray, Low, the Boultong Brothers, Flanders and Swann, Peter Cook, David Frost, Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, Fluck and Law, and Armando Iannucci.

Presentation of the course:

Lectures with PowerPoint illustrations.

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

- acquire some solid knowledge of the chronology of British satire
- assess the changing nature and impact of the form
- appreciate the particular contribution of certain key figures
- analyse the current challenges of the form in today's context

Reading and resources list

There are no compulsory readings for this course. However, you may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.

Churchill, Winston, *Thoughts and Adventures*, Chapter: 'Cartoons and Cartoonists', ISI Books (2009)

Cook, Peter et al, *Beyond the Fringe*, CD (2017)

Jay A, and Lynn, J, *The Complete Yes Minister & Yes, Prime Minister*, 2 Entertain (2012)

Swift, Jonathan, *A Modest Proposal*, Penguin Classics (2009)

Note: Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) students 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 ICE course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

(Information correct as of 15 May 2023)