

YAHR u3a Summer School Courses: 25th – 28th July 2022.

1. Four philosophers of four centuries

Beth Rudkin

Rene Descartes, French, the 17th Century: You can doubt everything, says Descartes. You can doubt God, even what you had for breakfast – that could be just a dream. Maybe he himself is not real. Then he got it. He must be real – ‘I think, therefore I am.’

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Swiss, 18th Century: He was a man ahead of his time, full of ideas – dangerous ideas perhaps. I wonder if you thought that, ‘*Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains*’ came from Karl Marx over a hundred years later.

Friedrich Nietzsche, German, 19th Century: ‘God is dead’, is Nietzsche’s best known quote. What on earth did he mean? The church in the 19th century was still going strong.

John Rawls, American, 20th Century: Best known for his ‘Veil of Ignorance’ theory. All will be revealed about Bill Clinton’s favourite philosopher.

By the end of our Summer School, everyone will know more about these outstanding philosophers. Even more important, we will come away with a new ability to think outside the box, to question everything, and to delight in discussion and gentle argument.

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2. An Introduction to Jewellery Making

Sue Stokes

These sessions will provide an opportunity to work with a variety of tools to make a range of jewellery. Learn how to make necklaces, bracelets and earrings using basic beading techniques to give you a basis for creating your own range of jewellery. A full list of equipment and resources will be provided for participants to acquire, or necessary items can be supplied at an additional cost.

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3. The air we breathe

Prof. Mike Pilling

Air pollution severely impacts human health, especially that of children and vulnerable adults. What are the sources of the pollutants? What are the health

effects? What can we do, as individuals and communities, to improve air quality?

We'll address these issues in the course which will cover (a) the main pollutants (particles, nitrogen dioxide and ozone) and their sources (b) EU legislation and international recommendations (and the UK's performance) (c) indoor air pollution (d) UK approach to improving air quality and the role of local authorities (e) how do we measure air quality? (f) how bad is air pollution in China and India? (g) links between air quality and climate change.

We'll look at sources of information, especially on the web, and find out what air quality is like near where we live and what our local authority is doing to improve it.

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4. Greek Mythology

Jeremy Dinsdale

Aims: To develop some knowledge and understanding of the nature of Greek Mythology from creation stories to the final myth.

To explore how the Greeks themselves regarded their mythological heritage and used it in Art, Literature, Religion, History and Politics.

Finally to explore the influence of Greek mythology on subsequent cultures and civilizations from the Romans until the present day.



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5. Women Artists from the Renaissance to the Present Day

Tony Daniels

The main purpose of this course is to debunk the myth that there haven't been any great women artists. In fact, over the centuries, women have produced some outstanding paintings that bear comparison with those of their male contemporaries of the past.

During the past 30-40 years the importance of women artists to the history of art has undergone a renaissance, such that the art galleries of the world are now putting on exhibitions of some of the finest works by women artists, more literature is being published on women artists and the sale price of paintings by some women artists is running into millions of dollars at auction houses like Christie's and Sotheby's.

The course will introduce you to some of the great women artists of the past 500 years and the paintings they produced. But, just as important, I'll be concerned to show the problems women experienced in their attempts to become artists, for example, what little training was available to them, the restrictions on what subject matter they could paint and how they obtained patronage and recognition in a world dominated by men.

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8.The Archaeology of Britain since the Romans

Derek Barker

We are all familiar with the exciting discoveries made by archaeology when it investigates the world of Stonehenge, Bronze Age Migrations or Roman mosaics. But the discipline of archaeology is also leading to a reinterpretation of events in the historical period of British history from 5th century King Arthur to 19th century 'King Coal'. If you would like to learn more about early Christian monuments, Anglo-Saxon jewellery, medieval cathedral construction, or the use of coal to make glass, iron and bricks, this module is designed for you.

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9.Casual Conversation in Spanish for Beginners

Hazel Ward

Hola amigos. I would like to introduce you to the vocabulary and phrases you would find useful to help you to communicate at a basic level in everyday situations whilst on holiday in a Spanish speaking country: to greet and meet others, find your way around, order or buy food and drink, talk a little bit about yourself, where you live, what you enjoy doing and ask others about themselves. Although I am not a native speaker, I have over the past 14 years enjoyed taking u3a Spanish groups at different levels using a variety of audio visual materials and genuine resources from my holidays in Spain, the Balearic and Canary Islands.

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10. Portrait Drawing/ Painting

Teresa Gordon

The course will be based around portraits and figure work from life, i.e. drawing each other. Delegates can bring photos of family and friends, which they can develop into portraits either in pencil or watercolour. It will cover the fundamentals of drawing, proportion, gesture and relationship of form. We will also explore using watercolour to build up skin tones and shading. An easel would be useful but not essential.

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