

The UK's European university

University of
Kent



SHORT COURSES SPRING 2017

Introduction to postgraduate study

Tonbridge

INTRODUCTION

Kent's new postgraduate-level courses at its Tonbridge Centre are designed for anyone with the passion and motivation to develop their knowledge at an advanced level.

These courses do not award academic credits; they can be studied for pleasure, or as preparation and an indication of your suitability for applying for a full postgraduate qualification programme.

The short courses take place at the University of Kent's Tonbridge Centre, situated in the town centre, just a few minutes' walk from the High Street and the railway station.

University of Kent's Tonbridge Centre

The University's Tonbridge Centre has been established for over 30 years and is a small and friendly centre dedicated to part-time study. The Centre provides high-quality teaching in a supportive environment to students of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds. It also focuses on supporting the continuing professional development needs of the business community in the region.

Excellent study resources

Students taking one of our postgraduate-level short courses receive a Kent student card, which gives you access to student



resources and services for the duration of the course. This provides an opportunity for maximum participation in the course and is indicative of what is available if you are considering your suitability to apply for a full postgraduate programme.

Resources at the Centre include a library with computers for students' use, which are linked to the University network and are equipped for word processing, email and internet access. There are extensive print and online resources in the Centre's library and students also have access to the University's other libraries, which contain over a million books, periodicals, pamphlets, audio tapes, videos, DVDs, slides and microfilms, which are delivered via a regular courier service.

All students at Tonbridge are encouraged to use the support services offered by the Student Learning Advisory Service and also have access to specialist advice such as that offered by the Careers and Employability Service and the Student Support and Wellbeing teams.

Inspirational teaching

Kent is renowned for its teaching style; our academics have an outstanding ability to pass on their passion for study and debate. Staff are approachable and accessible. Through direct contact with them, you are intellectually challenged and encouraged to broaden your horizons.

CREATIVE WRITING

To write well, you need to read well. Designed with writers in mind, this short course looks at three innovative and acclaimed books to provide a fresh perspective on how fiction works.

Fiction Writing at Postgraduate Level: more than one way to tell a story

The author David Mitchell says, 'all novels are actually compounded short stories'. Is this true? Does a protagonist need to be likeable? How do we create narrative drive? Can drama come from the ordinary moments in life, or do we need explosions and death? This short course, for ambitious writers of short stories, novellas and novels, answers some of these questions and many more.

In session one you cover *Reading Like a Writer* by Francine Prose. You then you go on to study the core texts: *A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan (both novels-in-stories which recently won Pulitzer prizes); *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout; and *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes (a novella that won the Man Booker prize in 2011).

The core texts are innovative in terms of their structure and inspire you to consider new possibilities for your own work. The books also have memorable characters, a strong sense of time and place and compelling storylines and, so, contain a wealth of lessons on craft.

Like the books, the course also has an innovative structure: each of the four sessions is three hours long, with time for consideration of the readings and technique, discussions, and writing exercises designed to help you generate new ideas and new work. Unusually, there is also a two-week gap between the sessions to give you time to both complete the reading and develop your work between classes. You can also use the course to develop existing work if you wish.

Course tutor

Vinita Joseph came to writing later in life having previously had a career as a lawyer. She now has a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Kent where she works as an Associate Lecturer in the School of English. She was a runner up in the New Ventures Prize and has been shortlisted for the Bridport Prize.

Dates and location

This course is offered twice:

- Mondays, 13 and 27 March, 10 and 24 April
- Wednesdays, 15 and 29 March, 12 and 26 April

10.30am-1.30pm (both courses)
University Centre, Tonbridge

Fee

£185

How to apply

Our short courses are usually very popular and you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Online booking is preferred, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge

Further information

University of Kent Tonbridge Centre,
Avebury Avenue,
Tonbridge
TN9 1TG
T: 01732 352316
E: tonbridgeadmin@kent.ac.uk



HISTORY

Take the opportunity to look, in close detail, at specific themes chosen from renaissance, reformation and counter-reformation, and international relations.

History and the Influence of Ideas: Renaissance to Enlightenment

This course broadly considers the influence of Arab knowledge and the revival of classical thought on European societies during the early modern period, through philosophy and religion, technology and economics, and politics and culture.

Throughout the course, you attempt to come to an understanding of the relationship between 19th, 20th and 21st-century interpretations of early modern Europe and those of more contemporary, early modern commentators and philosophers.

We start with a broad survey of the major themes; from the later medieval challenges to traditional ideas of learning and religion, to the emergence of a more recognisably 'modern' Europe in the 18th century. In the following three sessions you focus in detail on a major theme within the renaissance, the reformation/counter-reformation period, and international relations, discussing related themes and topics raised during the first

session. The course is informed by consideration of selected primary sources, both printed and online, and the work of later historians.

The potential topics for discussion may be as diverse as economics and trade, witchcraft, science and technology, politics, art and architecture, religion, urban history, social history, philosophy, and maps and war. There are opportunities in each of the sessions for some guidance and practical work searching online library and archival resources, and compiling working bibliographies.

Suggested introductory reading

- Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516)
- Niccolo Machievelli, *The Prince* (1532)
- Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776)
- Fernand Braudel, *Civilization and Capitalism, 15th-18th Centuries* (1979)
- Carter Lindberg, *The European Reformations* (2005)
- Peter Burke, *The Italian Renaissance: Culture and Society in Italy* 3rd ed. (2014)

Course tutor

Dr Elizabeth Edwards is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the School of History at Kent, where she taught Early Modern European and British history and directed the part-time BA programme in History for a number of years. She gained

her PhD at University College London and her primary area of research is the politics and international relations of the Dutch Republic in the 17th century, with subsidiary interests in cultural history and European networks. She has also written and lectured widely on Kentish local and regional history.

Dates and location

Tuesdays, 28 March
4, 11 and 25 April
10.30am-12.30pm
University Centre, Tonbridge

Fee

£125

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LITERATURE

The four-week course examines in what form the Brontë sisters absorbed the romanticism of Byron and how each young woman was inspired to portray the Byronic hero.

Tall, Dark and Fictional: Byron and the Brontës

The course examines the influence of Byron's poetry and especially the Byronic hero, on the works of the three Brontë sisters, with special attention to *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*. We examine biography, literary criticism and primary texts in order to explore how the Byronic hero enjoyed a second life in the juvenilia and mature works of the Brontës.

'Mad, bad and dangerous to know', Lord Byron presented himself to the isolated and feverishly-imaginative Brontë sisters as a series of poems featuring the Byronic hero – a

creature of the poet's own imagination that looks back to Cain and Satan and peers ahead both to the *Übermensch* of Nietzsche and to Ian Fleming's suavely sexy spy, James Bond.

We closely examine Emily's invention of Heathcliff, Charlotte's creation of Rochester and, to a lesser extent, Anne's presentation of Arthur Huntingdon. We consider the dubious contribution that the irretrievably-dissipated Branwell Brontë made to the imaginations of his far more talented sisters.

Investigations into the influence of Byron on the Brontës' literary fantasies chiefly focus on *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*. The course attempts to dynamite the commonplace view that one must prefer one of those novels over the other. Both novels richly re-imagine the Byronic hero as someone who is tall, dark and, alas, fictional.

Course tutor

Professor James Soderholm holds a PhD from the University of Virginia. He has published and lectured on Romanticism and aesthetics in both the USA and Europe. He is author of *Fantasy, Forgery and The Byron Legend* and has also published two books on Critical Theory.

Dates and location

Wednesdays, 1, 8, 15 and 22 March
10.30am-12.30pm
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Kent: the UK's European university

Kent is known as the UK's European university. Our two main UK campuses at Canterbury and Medway and our part-time centre in Tonbridge, are located in the south-east of England, close to London. We also have study locations in Athens, Brussels, Paris and Rome.

We have a diverse, cosmopolitan population with 158 nationalities represented and 41% of our academic staff come from overseas. We also have strong links with universities in Europe, and from Kent, you are about two hours away from Paris and Brussels by train.

World-leading research

As a student at Kent, you are taught by leading academics, who produce research of international standing. Based on our excellent results in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF), Kent was ranked 17th* in the UK for research intensity by the *Times Higher Education*, confirming our position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive universities.

Strong academic community

At Kent, our postgraduate students are part of a thriving intellectual community that includes staff and students from all our locations. In addition to lectures, seminars and one-to-one supervisions, our students benefit from a rich and stimulating research culture.

* of 122 universities, not including specialist institutions

A global outlook

Kent has a great international reputation, attracting academic staff and students from around the world. Our academic schools are engaged in collaborative research with universities worldwide and we offer a range of opportunities to study abroad and an approach that is truly global.

The Graduate School

As a postgraduate student, you also have the support of the Graduate School, which promotes your academic interests, co-ordinates the Researcher Development Programme and the Global Skills Award, and facilitates cross-disciplinary interaction and social networking.

Funding

Kent provides a variety of financial support opportunities for postgraduate students on a full-qualification programme. These range from research studentships, location-specific funding, sport and music scholarships, and funding specifically for overseas fee-paying students. For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/pgfunding

If you are a UK mature student, you may be able to apply for government funding for either a full-time or part-time programme. The amount you can receive depends on your family situation and the type of programme you are taking.

For details, please visit www.gov.uk/mature-student-university-funding

Enhanced career prospects

At Kent, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a tough economic environment. During your studies, you acquire a high level of academic knowledge and specialist practical skills. We also help you to develop key transferable skills that are essential within the competitive world of work.

Further information

For information about applying to Kent, or to order a copy of the *Graduate Prospectus*, please contact:
Recruitment and Admissions Office, The Registry,
University of Kent, Canterbury,
Kent CT2 7NZ, UK
T: +44 (0)1227 827272
F: +44 (0)1227 827077
www.kent.ac.uk/pg

Visit us

The University of Kent Tonbridge Centre is holding an information event on Thursday 4 May 2017, 3-7pm. For further information, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge

The University also holds Open Days and postgraduate recruitment events throughout the year at our other campuses. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays for details.



This brochure was produced in December 2016. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, see www.kent.ac.uk/pg Full details of our terms and conditions can be found at: www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions

For the University to operate efficiently, it needs to process information about you for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons. Any offer we make to you is subject to your consent to process such information and is a requirement in order for you to be registered as a student. All students must agree to abide by the University rules and regulations at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations

CONTACT US

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