



Course details

Course title

A History of Gardens & Garden Literature from the Seventeenth to the Nineteenth Century

Course code

Q00021479

Course date

Start: 23/05/25

End: 20/06/25

Number of classes

5 sessions

Timetable

Fri 23rd May, 10:00 to 12:00

Fri 30th May, 10:00 to 12:00

Fri 6th Jun, 10:00 to 12:00

Fri 13th Jun, 10:00 to 12:00

Fri 20th Jun, 10:00 to 12:00

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £37.00

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

During this five week course you will discover the significant connections that exist between garden design and literature. Through an examination of gardens and literature, we will establish the history, philosophical, aesthetic and political ideas which underpin gardens and the literature generated by them. Gardens are as you will realise our dangerous and incendiary things. The course will be supported by images and extracts on Canvas, which aim to enrich your understanding of a fascinating period. Each week will focus on a number of gardens or design movements and literary extracts, which will be analysed and discussed. Come along and enjoy a lively and informative exchange of views.

Course description

During the next five weeks, we are going to explore the exchange between garden design and its iconography, and the evolving relationship which it enjoys with the literature of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Britain.

The first two weeks will concentrate on seventeenth century garden design and thought and the manner in which politics became through the work of Marvell and Milton embroiled in the Garden. The garden during this period was politically involved with religious thought and ideas of the contemplative life, at odds with a period which sees the English Civil Wars.

Week 3 and 4 will explore the changing designs of gardens in the eighteenth century and will discuss the Picturesque and early Romantic literature.

Weeks 5 and 6 will focus on the garden's continued development into the nineteenth century and we will explore the upsurge in the pleasure garden and the literature associated with it. We will discuss Vauxhall in London particularly.

Throughout each element of the course we will encounter broad themes such as the better place/the Golden Age/, nostalgia, myth, identity and class. These subjects will prompt lively and engaged discussion.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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