

## **2025 Summer School**

### **Summary of Courses on Offer**

#### **A Historical overview of democracy in the West and autocracy in the East**

Tutor: Patricia Grainger, [patriciagrainger@btinternet.com](mailto:patriciagrainger@btinternet.com)

**Day One-** A study of Western Democracy, from its origins in Classical Greece 500 BCE to the French Revolution 1789, covering Pericles, Socrates, Hobbes, Rousseau, French Enlightenment and the American Revolution 1766.

**Day Two-** Autocracy in Russia, Mongolian occupation 1240-1540, history of serfdom, history of suppression of freedom of expression, Russian thinkers in the 19th century.

We will be making links and connections with past developments and those happening now.

We will explore concepts of freedom and individuality, as well as the ideologies underpinning these two different types of political government.

We will consider key historical events which will give us a deeper understanding of the present global political situation.

There will be plenty of opportunities for discussion and debate.

#### **The English Language; how did it get this far, how is it changing, and where is it going? A look at some of its quirks and fascinating features.**

Tutor: Elizabeth MacDonald, [Elis.mac@btinternet.com](mailto:Elis.mac@btinternet.com)

Includes looking at the main sources of English, and those events and social changes which steered it along, as well as changes in the present and likely in the future, that we observe. We shall look at our notions of 'correctness' and the ways in which our language mirrors social attitudes,



as well as some of its many playful and entertaining usages. There will be plenty of room for discussion and argument!

### **Japanese Encounters**

Tutor: Gillian Russell, [gillruss71@gmail.com](mailto:gillruss71@gmail.com)

The course will consist of an outline of the history and geography of Japan and its influence on the cultural development. We will look at the language and learn how it is written and spoken. There will be insight into Japanese arts and culture including wood block prints, poetry, music, Ikebana, kimono, samurai, geisha, tea ceremony, festivals and celebrations.

In addition, there will be opportunities to write haiku and to attempt simple calligraphy.

### **Making sense of Everyday Mathematics**

Tutor: David Martin, [david.martin@answers.me.uk](mailto:david.martin@answers.me.uk)

We will take a look at the mathematics we meet day by day to increase our understanding of it.

This course will improve our mental maths, increase our awareness of the shapes and number patterns around us. Using everyday contexts such as the fairground and games we will make greater sense of probability and risk. We will investigate what to look out for when shopping for best buys and get a better feel for percentages.

This will be a course for all levels of mathematics ability, for those fearful or confident in mathematics. No prior reading or warm up exercises are needed. Come rusty or polished in mathematics and we will learn together and have some fun.

It will be useful if you could bring along some sheets of squared paper, a pencil and a calculator.

Teaching style is by workshop including working together, with topics introduced by interactive lecture.

### **Talking About Our Generation, A look at the literature, art and culture in 1960's Britain**

Tutor : Denise West, [denisewest3@btinternet.com](mailto:denisewest3@btinternet.com)

This short course looks at some of the novels, plays, poetry, speeches and art of the period between 1960 - 1970. In just ten years London had

transformed from the bleak post-war city into a capital of the world full of freedom, hope and promise and where anything seemed possible.

Set Texts are : - Billy Liar - Keith Waterhouse

The L - Shaped Room. Lynn Reid - Banks

All other written material will be provided.

A reading of the above books is recommended but an in depth knowledge is not necessary. Could you please bring a photograph of yourself taken in the 1960's ? Also, pen and paper as you may need to take notes.

Teaching style is by lecture but discussion is always encouraged and also includes group work and some slides.

### **Improvised Drama**

Tutor: Ian Fisher, [ian.brooms@mail.com](mailto:ian.brooms@mail.com)

Improvised drama is a course aimed at teaching the techniques to be able to create a piece of theatre that is not reliant on script and learnt lines, and is open to all. Individuals will be given the confidence and skills to know that they will not fail to produce interesting and enjoyable pieces of drama. Participants will constantly be interacting with other members of the group in a supportive and non-critical environment and always within the individual's comfort zone. No previous 'acting' experience is needed, just the willingness to join in and most importantly: have fun, learn, laugh and enjoy the whole creative process.

### **1000 years on the anvil: Iron Age Britain to Anglo-Saxon England**

Tutor: Derek Barker, [brickman108@googlemail.com](mailto:brickman108@googlemail.com)

The millennium 400 BCE to 600 CE was a time of enormous change and development. At its commencement the most recent metal technology was being exploited by agriculture based tribal groups, but groups capable of huge constructional projects like Maiden Castle.

Under Roman influence coinage was introduced. Roman invasion connected Britain to a European-wide military civilisation for the first time which revolutionised trade, language, buildings, roads, religion and art. It is arguable that Christianity was the longest lasting of these revolutions. Life changed dramatically again at the end of the Roman period. The degree of this drama will be discussed at length as will the degree and nature of the AngloSaxon penetration, which still remains controversial.

We shall conclude with Saint Augustine and the Sutton Hoo burial and the illumination they shed on contemporary society

### **An introduction to Holiday Spanish**

Tutor: Hazel Ward, [hazelwardhull@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hazelwardhull@hotmail.co.uk)

Focusing on everyday situations that may arise, when visiting a country where Spanish is the main language, e.g. eating out, finding the way, shopping, exploring, entertainment etc.

As well as quizzes and word games there will be pair and group activities with opportunities to practise these topics as well as to learn more about the culture and traditions.

Some knowledge of conversational Spanish and basic vocabulary would be useful but not essential. This might include days of the week, months of the year, numbers and colours.

### **Cosmology**

Tutor: Roy Stewart, [ristewart9357@gmail.co](mailto:ristewart9357@gmail.co)

The aim of these sessions will be to try and explain via cosmology the history of the universe over the last 13.8 billion years. We will start at the big bang and reach our current understanding of the structure and formation of our universe and our place in our local galaxy the milky way including the recent identification of numerous exoplanets. We will then explore the possibilities of how our sun will live out its life and also the way the universe could end. There is no need to worry as we are talking trillions of years in the future.

### **Drug Discovery, Where our Medicines come from**

Tutor: William Martin, [wm82089@gmail.com](mailto:wm82089@gmail.com)

Over this short course we will specifically cover: Introduction to Drugs, Medicines from Plants, Drugs from Bugs (microorganisms), Drugs from Adrenaline (an example of rational drug design), Biologics (harnessing the power of DNA and RNA to develop medicines)

The medicines we use today come from a diverse range of sources and scientific approaches. From a historical perspective, the natural world provided early humans with a rich abundance of materials that could be explored for medical utility. Foremost amongst these have been plants, due to their prolific ability to act as chemical factories, harnessing the power of sunlight to synthesize complex molecules, many of which have proven beneficial in treating human diseases. Indeed, plant-derived compounds remain to this day the largest natural source of products used as medicines. Micro-organisms, including bacteria, fungi, and more recently viruses, constitute the second most abundant natural source. Animal

products and minerals too have had an important role to play, and some continue to do so.

However, rather than relying solely on nature itself, the discovery of new medicines in the modern era involves the application of a vast array of powerful techniques including synthetic chemistry, genetic engineering, and other emerging facets of biotechnology. These have resulted in new, scientifically directed approaches for rational drug design.

This workshop will chart the drug discovery process from antiquity to the present day and highlight the profound impact these endeavours have had on human health.