

wea

S Y D N E Y

Web: weasydney.com.au

Phone: (02) 9264 2781

Email: info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au

Discussion Group Program

Over 100 Distance Education courses to choose from



All course materials delivered to you!

Get together with friends to learn and discuss:



History



Literature



Philosophy



Science



Politics



Culture



Religion



Travel

Discussion Group Information

Welcome to WEA Sydney's Discussion Group Program!



WEA Sydney's Discussion Group Program is a special educational and social activity, run by a very special organisation! WEA Sydney is the oldest established pure adult education organisation in Australia. Founded in 1913 in Sydney, for over 100 years it's presented courses to adults in a wonderful variety of topics. WEA Sydney's regular courses are held in its custom-built rooms at WEA House, 72 Bathurst St, in central Sydney.

Nearly 20 years ago, WEA Sydney expanded into a new project – the Discussion Group Program. Designed for group study at home (or in a club or other community setting), the Discussion Group Program is a distance education program providing specially developed study material to small groups spread widely around NSW, but also including the suburbs of Sydney. Students join together in the DGP in groups to read, analyse, discuss and debate educational material that's mailed to them (books or tutor-written study texts), under the guidance of a corresponding tutor. The core subjects cover literature, travel writing, history, politics, philosophy, religion, poetry and drama, and each course comes with guiding notes and set questions for discussion.

Well over 100 courses are available for study, written by WEA Sydney's professional and qualified tutors. Each course comes with discussion questions, but you're free to follow your own interests, and replies to tutors can vary in size and length, depending on each group's range of study and discussion. This correspondence is usually done via email, but tutors can also meet you online via Zoom, with at least one online meeting included with each course. Tutors can also visit groups, at WEA's cost.

Full details of how groups can run their meetings are found in the next-door column, and WEA can also supply you with a small booklet covering the process. You can form a group anywhere, at any time – friends, work colleagues, even members of your current book club! And to make it even easier to enrol, we've held the price of our courses down to last year's level. There's also a small section in this brochure that includes courses that can be studied by groups **without tutor guidance** and a brand new small program available to **individual students** – we've adapted 4 of our best courses to suit your personal study preferences (note: these courses come **without** tutor support).

Enjoy your study, and don't forget to contact us if we can help you in your choice: call 02 9264 2781 or email: info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au

Michael Newton
Executive Director

Starting a Group

How it works

1. Start your Group

Anyone can start a Discussion Group – seek out some like-minded friends or put up a notice in your local library, bookshop or workplace. If you wish to start a new group to suit your situation, WEA can help you.

2. Arrange the meetings

New groups need to decide where and when to meet, and for how long – whatever best suits members' particular situations. Most groups meet every 2 weeks for 2 hours.

3. Run your Group

Choose a secretary to liaise with WEA and your tutor, a discussion leader to chair meetings, and a reporter to take discussion notes to send to your tutor (this role can change for each meeting).

What do Groups get?

Enthusiastic tutors

All our tutors are passionate about their subjects and experts in their fields. Tutors guide your studies by correspondence, answer your questions, reply to the group's reports, suggest extra reading and encourage members to find out as much as they can about a topic. Tutors can meet you online, via Zoom.

Tutor visits

It's possible to arrange a visit from your tutor once during the course. These visits are free, but are optional and depend on the tutor's availability.

Stimulating courses

Courses are written and designed especially for this program. The materials that go with a course depend on the topic, e.g. Literature has book boxes; History, Philosophy, Social Studies etc. have a Coursebook as a study guide.

Book Boxes

These books are provided as a free service to assist groups with texts. The Book Boxes are an important part of some of the courses. Boxes contain 8 sets of texts. Larger groups need to arrange for extra texts.

The group receives the Box, keeps it for use, then pays to send it on to the next group or back to WEA. The maintenance of the Book Boxes is the responsibility of everyone who uses them.

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How to book a course

1. First check the availability of your selection. Usually the Group Secretary contacts WEA.

Bookings can be made for 1 year, divided into two terms – Term 1 commences in February, Term 2 in July (Groups may make forward bookings for popular choices).

2. Indicate in what order the Group wishes to study the courses, if more than one course is booked.

3. After everyone has completed their Enrolment Form, send them all to WEA with the full Group payment for processing.

N.B. Course payment requires each student to pay the amount listed in the course description, so that each group member is allocated study material.

For further info:

Web: weasydney.com.au
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© 2022 Workers' Educational Association Sydney
ABN 82 062 929 908
Program Coordination: Michael Newton, Lynda Jupp
Design & Artwork: Wedge Communications & Marketing
Print: Blue Moose Productions

Literature & Poetry



NEW

Across a Crowded Room – Stories of Love, Lust & Longing

ALISON HALLIDAY MA DipEd PhD

Love stories permeate our culture and, we hope, our own lives. Challenge stereotypes and archetypes, while examining unexpected manifestations of love, and its consequences. All the books, songs, plays and poems in this course take a different, and sometimes shockingly contrary view of love as we read about statues and bears, cowboys and beautiful boys. Books and sources include *Persuasion* by Jane Austen; *Monkey Grip* by Helen Garner; *Normal People* by Sally Rooney; and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Includes Book Box

6 units \$78
Course No: D249

NEW

Crossing Boundaries – Novels that Explore the Unusual and Unexpected

ALISON HALLIDAY MA DipEd PhD

Explore 4 novels which move beyond familiar aspects of place, character, ideas and structure, to examine the disturbing and confronting. They refuse neat categorisation, and their unusual and extraordinary aspects may unsettle and challenge readers but there is also delight in being stimulated and crossing the boundaries of the expected or 'normal' novel. Texts: Antony Doerr, *All the Light We Cannot See*; Max Porter, *Grief is a Thing with Feathers*; Dominic Smith, *The Last Painting of Sarah de Vos*; David Malouf, *An Imaginary Life*.

Includes Book Box

7 units \$88
Course No. D241

NEW

Eating Their Words II: More Literature of Food

JEANNETTE DELAMORIS PhD

This new collection of food literature looks at how food and emotions intertwine in deeply personal ways. Sometimes food generates pleasure and excitement. It can soothe and comfort us. It connects families and creates communities. But at other times, it disgusts us, and provokes fear, guilt and anger. These readings will spark conversations about writing, food, and your life experiences.

Readings supplied.

6 units \$78
Course No: D253

This Working Life

ALISON HALLIDAY MA DipEd PhD

Work is essential to our survival; it defines our place in the world and is intrinsic to our wellbeing. Each text examines a type of work, what it may mean to the workers and those connected to them, and reflects on the work of writing itself. Explore a mixture of poetry, novels, music, and films (on CD), with tutor commentary. Texts include: Colum McCann, *This Side of Brightness*; John Mortimer, *Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders*; Kazuo Ishiguro, *Remains of the Day* (film based on the book); material (film versions and CDs) on the life of Edith Piaf; and the poetry of Seamus Heaney and Judith Wright.

Includes Book Box with texts, CDs and DVDs

6 units \$78
Course No: D204

Who'll Come A-Waltzing? Australian Poetry in Focus

CHRISTINE GIETZ BA DipEd,
Grad Cert in Uni Teaching

The Australian poetic voice is vibrant, entertaining, moving and memorable. There's so much about Australia, the land and its people, embedded in its poetry. Explore poetic forms as they address what it means to be Australian and how our great land informs our identity. Meet our great poets and our obscure poets and learn about our rich plethora of truly memorable poetry.

6 units \$78
Course No: D226

Five Women Travelling in the '90s

SUSANNAH FULLERTON BA MSc (Arts)

Follow the paths of 5 women travellers writing of their adventures and romance. Visit Rajasthan, Damascus, Jordan, Greece and Zimbabwe, the lives and culture of the writers, and those they meet and sometimes love. Texts: Lieve Joris, *The Gates of Damascus*; Royina Grewal, *In Rajasthan*; Annie Caulfield, *Kingdom of the Film Stars*; Katherine Kizilos, *The Olive Grove Travels in Greece*; Sekai Nzenza-Shand, *Songs to an African Sunset*.

Includes Book Box

5 units \$68
Course No: D137

Literary Landscapes: Cities and Beyond

ALISON HALLIDAY MA DipEd PhD

The cities of the world: complex, ambiguous; familiar and alien. Explore writing that has created and exposed the landscapes and structures, both built and natural, of 4 great cities. Look at the main landmarks, social, historical and cultural characteristics and events, and fictional and real people. Particular literary characteristics of Berlin, London, New York and Perth are thrown into sharp relief compared with Antarctica's wilderness. Cover many genres – poetry, memoir, song lyrics and fiction; examine the essence of each place. Includes book of sources

6 units \$78
Course No: D219

Loving Writers

ALISON HALLIDAY MA Dip Ed PhD

Love is one of the great themes in literature. It's not black and white, but infinite shades as we explore love with a writer's guiding hand through poetry, fiction, plays and short story. Focus on the lives, love and work of 8 modern writers based on the text by Ann-Marie Priest, *Great Writers Great Loves: the reinvention of love in the twentieth century*.

Includes Book Box

5 units \$68
Course No: D187

Literature & Poetry
continues over the page...

Meet

Alison Halliday tutor



Alison has spent her whole life immersed in books. She could read before going to school, thanks to her older siblings, and has never stopped. Her reading tastes are eclectic and omnivorous. She taught English in high schools and university, after gaining a PhD as a mature age student. She has been working for WEA in various capacities for many years. She has researched and written a number of non-fiction books and is currently working on a ghost story. She spends her spare time with her family, gardening, going to theatre and enjoying her dogs.

Literature & Poetry continued

Regency Novels: Acts of Subversion: Two 21st Century Australian Novels

ALISON HALLIDAY MA Dip Ed PhD

The novel is always new and may also act as subversive mirror to the past, present and future. Focus on a close reading and understanding of 2 famous Australian novels. The role of the novel in Australia today, the interweaving of 'real' and 'fictional' characters, the importance of the literary past and the sheer joy in seeing master novelists at work forms part of our own act of subversion. Texts: David Malouf, *Ransom*, Richard Flanagan, *Wanting*. **Includes Book Box**

5 units \$68
Course No: D193

Partners in Pre-Eminence

ALISON HALLIDAY MA DipEd PhD

Look at couples who made their mark, focus on what they achieved in their years together: Robert Schumann, German composer, and his wife Clara, pianist; Marie Curie, Polish radio-activity researcher, and her husband Pierre, French physicist; Sidney Webb, British economist and socialist, and his wife Beatrice, his collaborator; George Johnston, Australian novelist and journalist, and his second wife, Charmian Cliff, writer and columnist.

5 units \$68
Course No: D132

Partners in Crime

SUSANNAH FULLERTON BA MSc (Arts)

Murder has never been so popular. Look at 5 dishy detectives who solve crimes in ancient Rome, 1920s Melbourne and modern America – at the same time as falling in love. Discuss how successfully crime plot and love story are balanced, look at the role of humour in a murder novel, and analyse the importance of having a charming detective. Texts: Lindsey Davis, *The Silver Pigs*; Laurie R King, *The Beekeepers Apprentice*; Dorothy L Sayers, *Strong Poison*; Kerry Greenwood, *Murder in Montparnasse*; Janet Evanovitch, *One for the Money*. **Includes Book Box**

5 units \$68
Course No: D164

Timeless Places: Exploring Great Cities Through Literature – Sydney, Paris and Dublin

ALISON HALLIDAY MA DipEd PhD

Visit 3 great cities via the literature each has inspired: Sydney (city of water), Paris (city of love) and Dublin (the divided city) – each of which is reflected in a large body of literature, and it's through this, that the essence of each of these cities shifts over times and in different genres. Cut across the boundary between literature and travel, accompanied by extracts and readings. **Includes Readings**

6 units \$78
Course No: D165

Murder, Bloody Murder

ALISON HALLIDAY MA DipEd PhD

Focus on how murder is represented in 5 very different books. Examine the roles of the detective, the victim and the murderer, through comparisons for those with a fascination for this murder. Texts: Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*; Michael Connolly, *The Last Coyote*; Reginald Hill, *On Beulah Height*; Michael Dibdin, *Blood Rain*; Ann Perry, *Traitors' Gate*.

Includes Book Box

5 units \$68
Course No: D152

Sharing the World: People and Other Animals

ALISON HALLIDAY MA DipEd PhD

From childhood to maturity, we read about rabbits in coats, lost dogs, man hunting whales and clever foxes. We share this earth with thousands of animals: we love and eat them, skin and tame them; and write about them. Explore some literary animals, our connections to them and why these relationships are wonderful and perplexing. From domestic to wild, in several genres, we examine how we too are animals. Texts: selected poems; Anna Sewall's *Black Beauty*; Henry Williamson's *Tarka the Otter*; Helen MacDonald's *H is for Hawk* and Ceridwen Dovey's *Only the Animals*. **Includes Book Box**

6 units \$78
Course No: D225



"*H is for Hawk* was very popular and well written, giving us new knowledge of how hawks could be trained, and have been for centuries.

"We also liked many of the poems, especially *The Eagle* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson and *Magpies* by Judith Wright.

"Most popular was probably *Only the Animals*. So many varied stories, so many styles of telling the tale, different slants, bits of history. It was a great course. Thank you."

Determined Heroines

SUSANNAH FULLERTON BA MSc(Arts)

Examine a variety of 'determined heroines' in English language novels. The 5 novels explore the pressures these heroines face, look at their desire for independence and their goals, and enable discussion on whether or not their determination/stubbornness can be seen as a strength or a weakness in terms of their personal happiness. Texts: Charlotte Bronte, *Villette*; Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South*; Anthony Trollope, *The Small House at Allington*; Joanna Trollope, *The Rector's Wife*; and Peter Goldsworthy, *Honk if You Are Jesus*. **Includes Book Box**

5 units \$68
Course No: D122

The Real and the Imitation

SUSANNAH FULLERTON BA MSc(Arts)

Jane Austen's 6 novels were all published during the period known as the Regency. The Regency lasted only from 1811 to 1820, but was an era of social change, unrest, elegance and artistry. 200 years later, we still love Regency novels. Georgette Heyer created the Regency genre of historical fiction and her witty, romantic comedies have never been out of print. Explore aspects of the Regency – ballrooms, adulterers, runaway marriages, card parties, rakes, heroes and enchanting heroines – in the fiction of Jane Austen and Georgette Heyer. Texts: Jennifer Kloester, *Georgette Heyer's Regency World*; Susannah Fullerton, *Jane Austen and Crime*. **Includes Book Box (novels not included)**

6 units \$78
Course No: D185

Or study these Literature & Poetry courses without a tutor:

- Best of the Best:
Famous Literary Characters
- Men of Parts:
Literature's Greatest Writers
- Reading Novels –
The Joys of Double-dipping
- 'Man's Inhumanity to Man' –
A Study of the Poetry of War
- Down Memory Lane:
Famous Poems We Knew
and Loved

See our Independent Group Study listing on pages 14–15 for more details

Group Feedback:

Sharing the World – People and Other Animals

ALISON HALLIDAY

"We have all really enjoyed this course, reading books that were interesting and varied. *Black Beauty* had not been read before by some members, and was different to what we had been expecting, thinking it was really *National Velvet*. Set in a period when the horse was king, we learnt a great deal.

Religion & Philosophy



NEW Religion and Politics Around the World

DOUGLAS GOLDING MA PhD

Current agitation for guarantees of religious freedom encourages debates about the ideal relations between religion and politics at the personal level, and between church and state at the institutional level. Should governments be able to regulate religious activity? Should religious principles be able to influence political decision-making? Nation states around the world answer these questions in varied ways – from the conflation of Protestantism with nationalism in the United States to the extremes of theocracy in Iran and the subjugation of religion in China.

6 units \$78
Course No: D248

Aristotle on the Happy Life

CATERINA PANGALLO BA (Hons)

Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* is a book on how to prosper in life. All of us live in communities and states, we cannot prosper alone – what I do affects others, and what others do affects me. Accordingly, ethics is an issue for everyone. But although Aristotle's work is a philosophical treatise, it's written in an easy style for every intelligent reader to understand, designed to be of practical use. On account of its success with these purposes, it's become one of the most influential books in history. Through selected readings, commentary and discussion points, examine major topics that relate to 'the Happy Life', including justice; personal and social development; striving for excellence; love, friendship, wisdom; and the way to a prosperous life.

6 units \$78
Course No: D210

Oh My God – Part I: Exploring the Concept of Deity

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD Med

Some religions, chiefly the monotheisms (e.g. Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism) claim to be uniquely true. Other religions are polytheistic, acknowledging many gods, and that these gods belong specifically to a particular people. Explore the concepts of the divine proposed by various religions, and examine the significance of the answers to the question, 'Who (or what) is God?' These differences include whether there's one or many gods, if god is personal or impersonal, and whether atheism can legitimately be viewed as religious.

5 units \$68
Course No: D191

Oh My God – Part II: Exploring How Humans are Religious

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD Med

Religious people express conviction in the existence of God or the gods in a variety of ways. Some religions ban art and insist that God cannot be depicted (like Judaism and Islam), while others produce beautiful and diverse depictions of their divinity (Hinduism and Roman Catholic and Orthodox varieties of Christianity). Some religions insist that salvation depends on orthodoxy (believing the right things) and others that salvation is a matter of orthopraxy (doing the right thing). Different religions offer the faithful different rewards, such as a blissful afterlife (Christianity, Islam), or total extinction (Theravada Buddhism).

5 units \$68
Course No: D192

The Wisdom of the East: Religion and Philosophy of China and Japan

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD Med

Western Society has this century turned more and more to the East for solutions to problems both philosophical and practical, because of a perceived failure of traditional western beliefs. Look at Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and Chinese and Japanese Buddhism. Are all religions essentially the same? Are Eastern and Western views so different?

7 units \$84
Course No: D39

Socrates – Martyr of Philosophy

CATRINA PANGALLO BA (Hons)

Socrates was one of the most important figures in history. He took philosophy to the streets and sought to educate the Athenians in humanism. His persistent message was that an 'unexamined life' is not worthy living. With this message he influenced the ethics of Plato and Aristotle, Romans and Christianity. Who was the real Socrates? He showed us the path to individual development as the foundation of a healthy society.

6 units \$78
Course No: D216

The Religions of India

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD Med

More than any other country, India has been the birthplace of great religions. Hinduism, Buddhism, and the lesser known Jainism and Sikhism all originated there. Trace its history of religious thought, focusing on older forms like Zoroastrianism and the Vedic and Parsi religions, and examine differences between Western and Eastern philosophic viewpoints. Why do Westerners feel the solutions to their problems could lie in Eastern religion and philosophy?

8 units \$88
Course No: D41

Or study these Religion & Philosophy courses without a tutor:

- Jerusalem and the End of Days
- The Five Pillars of Islam
- The Prophet of Nazareth
- Myth and Religion

See our Independent Group Study listing on pages 14–15 for more details

Ancient History History



Ancient and Medieval Culture in South Italy and Sicily

JURGEN LAWRENZ BA (Hons) MA (Hons) PhD / CATERINA PANGALLO BA (Hons)

The ancient and medieval culture of Southern Italy and Sicily was one of the most colourful and continuously creative in history, lasting 2000 years. Examine a historical narrative interwoven with surveys of cultural achievement in all fields of endeavour: poetry, art and craft, science and philosophy, education and politics. Cover the eras when democracy and Christianity were born. Lavishly illustrated, of interest to all students of ancient history, but also those wishing to visit those sites.

6 units \$78
Course No: D237

The Fall of the Roman Empire and the Birth of Europe

JURGEN LAWRENZ BA (Hons) MA (Hons) PhD / CATERINA PANGALLO BA (Hons)

Germanic barbarians roamed Western Europe for over 400 years, and broke up the decrepit Roman Empire. In these convulsions, new nations were born and Christianity began its ascent as the dominant religious power. Track the major tribes and outstanding personalities, down to Charlemagne and the idea of a new Empire being raised on the ashes of the old.

6 units \$78
Course No: D222

Life and Literature in the Roman World: From Cicero to Prudentius

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

The literature of Ancient Rome has had an enduring influence on Western civilisation. Focus on 12 outstanding Roman writers, from the 1st century BC to the 4th century AD: Cicero, Caesar, Catullus, Sallust, Virgil, Horace, Tibullus, Ovid, Petronius, Tacitus, Pliny and Prudentius. Politicians, generals, historians, poets, novelists and letter writers reveal much of Roman life, social institutions and attitudes from the Republic's end to the early Empire and the rise of Christianity. Extracts from written works and illustrated examples of art, sculpture and architecture.

6 units \$78
Course No: D149



NEW

Royal Collectors of Europe – The Art They Wanted and Acquired, and Where to See it Now!

ANNE HARBERS MArts

Meet 6 European Royal collectors and the impressive collections we still flock to today in great numbers. What was the motivation for their collecting – a genuine love of art or only for status? How did they use their art collections for diplomacy and territorial gain? Charles I of England wanted a specific Italian collection aiming to emulate the Court of Spain. Napoleon detailed specific paintings written into the Treaties of the countries he conquered, advocating that only the French had the 'taste' to appreciate great art. Catherine the Great acquired more art in her lifetime than any other European monarch. And a visit to Vienna today will show you acquisitions from avid Royal Habsburg collectors.

6 units \$78
Course No: D251

NEW

French Civilisation Through Historical and Literary Extracts: From Joan of Arc to the Eve of the 20th Century

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

The richness of French literature, which extends from the Middle Ages onwards, is one of the great achievements of the human imagination. This literature is closely tied to the cultural and social history of France. Each unit examines a different pivotal figure and moment: Joan of Arc and the Hundred Years' War, Montaigne and the Renaissance, Montesquieu and the Enlightenment, Balzac and the early Romantic period, Camus and Sartre – the Absurd and Existentialism in the 20th century. As an optional bonus, several extracts from Gide's novel *Les Faux-Monnayeurs* are included in the Introductory chapter.

6 units \$78
Course No: D250

NEW

From French Royalty to Empire – Art and Decorative Elegance from Louis XIV's Versailles to Napoleon

ANNE HARBERS MArts

French monarchs managed their images as carefully as any self-branded celebrity today. How did Louis XIV use artists to enhance his image as Sun-King? How did he make Versailles the representation of himself to be envied and copied by monarchs all over Europe? Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were the epitome of 18th century frivolity with artists creating portraits to reflect their extravagance but also to make political statements. The arts of beautiful clocks and incredible silver also reflected the developing ideals of the Enlightenment. Lastly, to reinforce his acquired position of leader of France and Emperor, Napoleon used many similar tactics.

4 units \$58
Course No: D245

NEW

Austria: An Overview of its History and its Heritage

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

Austria has had a unique history owing to its position as the most easterly of the German-speaking countries. Its long rule over Hungary and some of the Slavic countries led to the assimilation of many influences from these different cultures, adding to its already rich heritage. Explore the history of the country, the special position of Vienna and its architecture as the capital of the vast Habsburg Empire, and the work of some of its greatest composers: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert; the artists Maubertsch, Klimt and the Sezession; the writers Gabriele von Baumberg and Hugo von Hofmannsthal.

6 units \$78
Course No: D246



400 Years of Women Artists

ANNE HARBERS MArts

In every century there have been outstanding women artists who've achieved a reputation that has sat well-earned, alongside their male colleagues. Often their life stories are remarkable in themselves and give us a glimpse into social histories of their age. Look back over the last 400 years, and consider Artemisia Gentileschi, Rachel Ruysch, Angelica Kauffman, Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun, Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, Grace Cossington Smith, Hilda Rix Nicolas and others. We also look at who are the recognised women in art in the 21st century so far.

6 units \$78

Course No: D240

Richard III: His Life and Times

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD MEd

Richard III is one of the most enigmatic figures in English history. Was Shakespeare's hunchback the real man and, if not, why was it so important to present him as evil? Explore questions about truth, propaganda and tyranny in our own era and examine Richard in context of the extraordinary times in which he lived, a period of enormous upheaval, uncertainty and change.

8 units \$88

Course No: D15

Portraits of Russia

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

Focus on the life and work of some of Russia's most outstanding personalities, starting with Andrey Rublëv, Russia's most famous icon painter, and his circle, and the Byzantine background to Russian iconography, followed by Russia's greatest poet, Alexander Pushkin, and his immortal poem Yevgeny Onegin; novelist Ivan Turgenev; the music of Alexander Borodin and Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov and of Tchaikovsky, Russia's first professionally-trained composer. Conclude with the life and tragic death of the last Tsar and Tsarina, Nicholas II and Alexandra.

6 units \$78

Course No: D232

Portraits of the Middle Ages and Renaissance: The Life and Achievements of 6 Outstanding Personalities

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

The Middle Ages and Renaissance saw profound and glorious developments in literature, art and music. Examine 6 outstanding figures: Hildegard of Bingen (writer, composer, mystic), Thomas Becket (clerk, chancellor, archbishop, saint), Geoffrey Chaucer (poet, diplomat), Leonardo da Vinci (artist, universal genius), Erasmus of Rotterdam (scholar, writer, satirist) and John Dowland (lutenist, composer).

Includes USB stick of images, music CDs

6 units \$78

Course No: D221

Portraits of the Netherlands: Holland and Belgium

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

Focus on the outstanding works of art and music that have emerged from the Low Countries: the paintings of the Van Eyck brothers, and the Flemish school in the early 15th century; the music of Clemens non Papa and Jan Sweelinck, Holland's greatest late Renaissance composers; Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Holland; Mozart in the Netherlands; the plays of Maurice Maeterlinck, the only Belgian writer ever to be awarded a Nobel Prize for literature (1911); and finally Georges Simenon, Belgium's most famous crime fiction writer, creator of the celebrated Maigret series of novels. **Includes discs of artworks, music excerpts and special Maigret DVD**

6 units \$78

Course No: D238

A Short History of Russia

CAVAN HOGUE BA MAppLing (ex-Ambassador to USSR)

Is Vladimir Putin the saviour of the motherland or an evil monster bent on conquering the world? Is Russia a threat to its neighbours or are they a threat to Russia? What influence does Russia have on the world and how will that play out in the future? To consider these questions, we need to understand how major events of Russian history remain relevant today and how they've shaped today's Russia. Russians believe they are special and that Russia must be treated with respect as a great Power. Is this view any different from the USA's Manifest Destiny, the British Empire, the Romans, the Chinese or any other Empire? **Includes an update for 2022**

6 units \$78

Course No: D229

You can support WEA Sydney in 2 very special ways:

Become a Member

WEA Sydney has a growing membership of students, WEA club members, and individuals just keen to support what WEA does – provide adults with the best short courses in Sydney.

Membership only costs **\$25 for 1 year** or **\$60 for 3 years** and comes with many benefits:

- A **12.5% discount** face-to-face and online courses and events as well as our regular course program
- Enrolment into **2 free members-only lectures**, given by some of WEA's best tutors (refreshments included)
- **Social events** at WEA
- Members draw for a **\$250 Lucky Door Voucher**
- **Priority mailing** of our term course catalogues
- Quarterly newsletter with **members-only offers**

Donate or bequest

WEA Sydney is registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient with the Australian Taxation Office.

This means that any gift or donation from \$2 upwards is classified as a tax deductible gift, for which you'll receive an official WEA receipt).

WEA Sydney is also able to accept bequests from those who'd like to support our work into the future.

Even small amounts can help build a fund that will protect WEA's and our students' interests – and our ability to maintain our current program, which is unique among other colleges.

Please contact WEA for more information:

Phone: (02) 9264 2781

Email: info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au

History

continues over the page...

The Cultures and History of Medieval Catalonia

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD MEd

The area from Barcelona to Nîmes, between the Mediterranean, the Iberian Peninsula, and northern Europe, has been strategically significant from the Romans onwards. Today visitors see a unique tapestry of classical, Visigoth, Jewish, Muslim and Christian influences, recognised by the Spanish as 'Catalonian' (French 'Languedoc') culture. In the Middle Ages the region was a crossroads for pilgrims travelling to and from Santiago, an embarkation point for Crusaders, a refuge for popes escaping Rome, and a hotbed of religious dissent and conflict (e.g. the Cathars and the Albigensian Crusade). Explore the dynamic cultures of medieval Catalonia.

6 units \$78
Course No: D231

Bismarck and the Second Reich

JURGEN LAWRENZ BA (Hons) MA (Hons) PhD

In the mid-19th century, the idea of the unification of Germany was a huge popular movement. The declining nobility opposed it, but it gave Prussia the opportunity to enlarge its power base and for Bismarck to emerge as architect of the Second Reich. Trace the remarkable career of this most powerful man of half a century, who was by universal consent the archetype of the manipulative politician, and delve into the politics and personalities of 19th century Europe.

6 units \$78
Course No: D209

The Celts and Their World

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD MEd

Explore the world of the Celts from earliest times (800BC) through the classical eras of Ancient Greece and Rome, to Medieval Ireland and Wales, to Celtic revival politics in the European Union. Who were the Celts? What did they believe in? How did they live? What legacy have they left the modern world? Discover something about the richness of Celtic culture with its poetry, myths, dance, music, and mystery as it developed through time.

6 units \$78
Course No: D143

Victorian Age and its Legacy

DOUGLAS GOLDING MA PhD

We've all heard of Victorian-age prudery – yet outside Victorian England's homes, prostitution flourished as never before. This is one of the many paradoxes of the Victorian age, which also saw growing wealth and growing poverty, great buildings and workers' slums, strict morality at home and aggression abroad... Yet Victorian England's democratic institutions and educational ideas, its science and technology, and its fierce debates on religion and morality, made their mark around the world, especially in countries once part of the Empire. Look back on an age which has left a deep impression on our own.

6 units \$78
Course No: D223

Portraits of Scandinavia: Norway and Denmark

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

The cold lands of the far north have in fact produced inspiring examples of music, drama, art and philosophy to match the best of the more famous cultures of France and Italy. Explore the genius of Norway and Denmark by examining the works of Ludvig Holberg (founder of the Danish National Theatre), Hans Christian Andersen, the philosopher Kierkegaard, Edvard Grieg (Norway's great Romantic composer), Henrik Ibsen (*The Wild Duck*), and Edvard Munch, outstanding artist.

6 units \$78
Course No: D230

The Middle East, Past and Present

DOUGLAS GOLDING MA PhD

To even begin to understand the turmoil in the Middle East today – the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Israel/Palestine, and elsewhere – we need to know its geography and violent history. Discover also how much the peoples of the Middle East have in common, including their concerns for land and religion, and a mindset which keeps the past eternally present. Designed to inform and provoke discussion, and challenge many fixed opinions.

6 units \$78
Course No: D233

How the British Empires Changed the World – for Better and/or for Worse?

DOUGLAS GOLDING MA PhD

British imperial reach extended to its control of power in America prior to its War of Independence. Later, at its peak in the 1930s, the second British Empire included over 25% of world population in its dominions, colonies, protectorates and mandates on all 6 continents. The largest empire in history, it was contiguous, like the great empires before it – but was held together by the Royal Navy, the English language, British institutions, and commercial interests. Critics say, by exploitation and oppression. By the century's end the imperial glory had gone, but its legacy remains. Examine the 2 British empires: the 1st the American Empire and the 2nd global empire.

6 units \$78
Course No: D203

Separatism – Why Nations Break Apart

DOUGLAS GOLDING MA PhD

Look at how and why nations fragment, why parts break away, and consider whether this could happen in Australia. Could indigenous 'recognition' and 'sovereignty' co-exist within Australia's constitutional structure? Sometimes separatism erupts into civil war, as factors which bring people together, such as language and a common history, clash with issues that may divide, such as race, religion, and economic disparities. Look at a variety of historical events, including the civil wars in England, the United States, Russia and Spain, and current separatist movements, among the Catalonians, the West Papuans, the Scots and others.

6 units \$78
Course No: D242

The English Civil Wars: The Wars that United a Nation

DOUGLAS GOLDING MA PhD

The Wars of the Three Kingdoms (1640–1660), better known as the English Civil Wars, were 20 tumultuous years of conflict which finally united the 3 countries in a constitutional monarchy which has lasted, with some modifications, until the present day. The political and religious institutions developed in this period have since been exported to many countries. Explore the upheavals in church and state, through significant historical figures like Charles I, 'king and martyr'; William Laud; and Oliver Cromwell – some great battles like Edgehill, Naseby and Worcester, and some then-novel ideas, like freedom of religion.

6 units \$78
Course No: D213

Group Feedback:

Middle East, Past and Present DR DOUGLAS GOLDING

"We were challenged by this course mainly because it is a very complex subject. However it is very relevant and learning more about the history of these countries will enable us to have a greater understanding of future events.

"The course notes were very readable and comprehensive, providing a good overview of each

country. The questions incited good discussions, extending our thinking and to make comparisons with Australia.

"Replies served to confirm our reports and provide some other relevant comments.

"Tutor's visit was much appreciated and enjoyed, again extending our thinking by questioning some of our comments!"





Medieval Learning: Private Lives: Six Medieval People

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD MEd

Look at the fascinating life stories of 6 extraordinary people from the Medieval period, and the times and societies in which they lived: Eleanor of Aquitaine, Henry II's tough and controversial queen; Abbot Sugar of Saint-Denis, founder of the gothic style of architecture; Peter Abelard, the monk famed for his disastrous love affair with the beautiful nun, Heloise; Joan of Arc; Emperor Frederick II of Germany; and Richard III, whose life is re-examined looking at evidence suggesting he was not a murderous tyrant but a victim of a vicious propaganda campaign.

6 units \$78

Course No: D17

Throwing a Light on the Dark Ages

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD MEd

The Middle Ages have often been dismissed as a period of ignorance stuck between 2 epochs of intellectual achievement – the world of Classical Antiquity and the flowering of the Renaissance. However, look closer and discover a rich tradition of innovation and learning. From Charlemagne's reign in the 8th century to the 14th century, the Middle Ages were instrumental in laying the foundation for the Renaissance and the Western intellectual tradition as a whole. This period saw the rise of institutions of learning and great works of philosophy, science, mathematics and theology.

6 units \$78

Course No: D179

Gothic Cathedrals

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD MEd

The great medieval cathedrals of Britain and Europe are extraordinary and beautiful works of architectural and engineering ingenuity that still dazzle and thrill us, yet they were planned and built when much of human life was cheap and ugly, brutal and brief. The cathedral was a concrete reminder of what they felt as the close contact between the spiritual and physical worlds. Examine the philosophy of Gothic architecture, the society it developed in, the masons and labourers who built it, and the people whose lives revolved around the activities taking place within it.

6 units \$78

Course No: D14

Eve, the Apple and Medieval Society

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD MEd

Medieval theologians believed the nature of Eve's disobedience, as told in the Book of Genesis, was sexual and thus viewed women as a persistent source of sexual temptation. Examine medieval society's attitude to sex, love, romance, marriage, courtly love and various other alternatives through authors such as Andreas Cappellanus and Chretien de Toytes. Also look at heretical sects that condoned sexuality outside of marriage and family, in defiance of Church orthodoxy.

6 units \$78

Course No: D155

The Vikings

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD MEd

History shows the Vikings were just as splendid as we imagine – valiant, adventurous and scholarly seafarers. Explore an attractive and clear picture of this great era of a people who figure larger than life in our imagination.

6 units \$78

Course No: D07



Meet

Dr Carole Cusack
tutor

Carole is currently Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Sydney, having first attained her BA Hons in Religious Studies and English Literature in 1986. She began teaching Religious Studies in 1989, at first as a casual lecturer and tutor, while at the same time working on her PhD, completed in 1996.

That year she became a full-time staff member, and from there, she went on to attain a Master of Education in Educational Psychology in 2001. In an interview in 2014, Carole explained aspects of her background, and how her interests in religions and the medieval world developed:

"My family were working-class Irish Catholics and I was educated at Catholic schools in the Sydney suburbs. As a teenager I was passionately interested in music and reading, and certain books captured my imagination. A few that were really important are: C. P. Snow's *The Masters* (1951), about the election of a new Master in a Cambridge college in 1937; Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* (1945), which is tremendously Catholic and romantic; and also John Cowper Powys' massive *A Glastonbury Romance* (1932), soaked as it is in the Grail myth, the re-enactment of the passion of Christ, and so much else as well.

"Where did this lead? Well, I suppose that despite the fact I wrote a PhD on early medieval missions I always had a foot in the nineteenth century, and in the early 1990s when I was studying, both medievalism and the academic study of Paganism were coming into being as real scholarly fields. As I was employed in Religious Studies and not Medieval Studies I've developed a very broad range of interests and have taught undergraduates Buddhism, Japanese religions, Hinduism, Islam, even Old and New Testament topics."

History

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Before 1066: Anglo-Saxon England

CAROLE CUSACK BA (Hons) PhD MEd

Ever wondered where the names for the days of the week came from? Or whether King Alfred the Great really did burn the cakes? Examine the literature, art, religion and society of the Anglo-Saxons in detail, and the truth behind *1066 and All That*. From their origins in Germany in the 5th century AD to the Battle of Hastings, where William of Normandy was victorious and brought a new culture to England, the story of the Anglo-Saxons is fascinating and absorbing.

6 units \$78
Course No: D12

A History of China

CAVAN HOGUE BA MAppLing

Look at the development of China through the ages and the basics of Chinese civilisation and culture, but with a focus more on modern times. Discuss the rise of China to be the most technologically advanced country in the world, then its decline and humiliation by European powers. The fall of the last traditional dynasty in 1912 covers times of division, invasion and civil war until the creation of the People's Republic of China, the Mao dynasty, in 1949. The cultural Revolution, the Great Leap Forward and the Red Guards destroyed the economy but after the death of Mao, China has risen to become the second most powerful country in the world economically and militarily. It will soon overtake the USA. What does all this mean for Australia?

Includes an update for the current political setting

6 units \$78
Course No: D239

Rebellious Females

SONYA THOMPSON MA

Examine the biographies of 6 extraordinary 'rebellious females' who all rebelled in their own way. Explore their lives from both the historical and sociological perspective, with interesting insights into the nature of the societies in which they all lived, ranging from the 18th to the mid-20th century. Look at Mary Reiby, thief, emancipist, entrepreneur; Walyer, guerrilla fighter, Amazon; Emma Miller, seamstress, political activist, labour reformer; Louisa Lawson, writer, publisher; Dame Nellie Melba, opera singer; Adela Pankhurst Walsh, suffragette, pacifist, social reformer.

6 units \$78
Course No: D124

The World of the Venerable Bede: Anglo-Saxon and Celtic Britain

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

The Venerable Bede (c. 673–735) was one of early medieval Europe's leading scholars and 'father' of English history. Living in one of the most vibrant Anglo-Saxon periods, he played a key role in its evolving society which witnessed the religious and social transformation of England; the spread of learning and literacy gave a greater sense of unity to its peoples, opportunities for increased travel abroad, and a great flowering of the arts: manuscript illumination and copying, architecture, the decorative arts and music. **Includes separate USB stick and CDs**

6 units \$78
Course No: D200

The Turbulent 17th Century: Caroline and Restoration England

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

Examine cultural life in England during one of its most turbulent political and social periods: from the reign of Charles I to the reign of William and Mary. Begin with the outstanding paintings of Van Dyck, court portraitist to Charles, and the music of William and Henry Lawes, who served the Caroline court. The Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 coincided with the work of architectural genius Christopher Wren. Explore the poetry of John Dryden, some of the most profound literature of the Restoration period. Finally, the music of Henry Purcell, the greatest composer in 17th century England, and the plays of William Congreve, the outstanding playwright of the age. **Includes separate USB stick and CDs**

6 units \$78
Course No: D197

Portraits of Italy: Cicero, Alberti, Raphael, Titian, Vivaldi and Domenic Scarlatti

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

Explore the glories of creativity in Italy from Ancient Rome through to the Renaissance, using a mix of written commentary, original texts, and audio-visual material. Look at Cicero's famous speeches to examine the interconnection between writing and public speaking in Ancient Rome; Alberti's architecture and satirical novel *Momus*; Raphael, Titian, and Vivaldi are all famous and celebrated; Domenico Scarlatti (contemporary of Vivaldi) and the beautiful vocal and harpsichord music he wrote in Italy before moving to Spain. The balance is: 2 units art, 2 music, 1 literature, 1 literature and architecture. **Includes separate USB stick and CDs**

6 units \$78
Course No: D205

Portraits of France: Pascal, Molière, Madame de Pompadour, Manet and Debussy

ROBERT FORGACS MA (Hons) PhD

Explore the glories of creativity in France from the 17th century and the Napoleonic era through to the birth of modern art, using a mix of written commentary, original texts, and audio/visuals. Pascal – mathematician, scientist, philosopher; Molière – France's greatest comic playwright; Mme de Pompadour – royal mistress and patron of the arts (some music included); Queen Marie Antoinette and the paintings of Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun; Eduard Manet – Impressionist artist; and Debussy – the music of Impressionism and birth of Symbolism. **Includes separate USB stick of images and CDs**

6 units \$78
Course No: D218

Meet

Dr Robert Forgacs
tutor



Robert gained his BA (Hons.) degree at the University of Sydney, where he majored in Music and French. A MA (Hons.) degree in Music followed, with a thesis on "Music and Poetry in France in the later 16th century".

He then transferred to the University of NSW, where he studied for a PhD in Music, which was awarded in 1997.

Robert is an internationally published scholar; his musicological and Neo-Latin books and articles by him have been published in Europe and the USA. He has been a lecturer, tutor, short-term postdoctoral fellow, and research assistant at the University of NSW, and has lectured for Macquarie University, Opera Lunedi, the Northside Opera Study Group, the Institute at St James's Church King Street, Sydney, and the WEA. Robert was a visiting Fellow at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Neo-Latin studies at Innsbruck in 2013, and is currently writing a book for the Brill Press at Leiden, Holland, on Latin, Music and Classical Antiquity from Bach to the 21st century'.



Pride, Faith and Blood: The American Civil War and its Aftermath

DOUGLAS GOLDING MA PhD

Every Federation has struggles between States' rights and national policies. In the USA these led to a civil war which cost more lives than all other wars America has been involved in put together. The war left scars that are still raw, especially in the South, where the Confederate flag flies defiantly over government buildings and private homes, and even outside churches. Examine the dis-united territories before the Firing on Fort Sumter, and the great battles through historical photos and re-enactments on Ken Burns' video. Then look at the reconstruction and division between north and south, which still plays a significant part in every American election. **Includes Ken Burns' 150th anniversary DVD**

6 units \$78
Course No: D211

A Celebration of Royalty and Riches, Looters and Collectors – The Wonders of Art Museums

ANNE HARBERS MArts

Millions of people each year visit the major art museums of Europe. Who were the individuals or families who amassed these amazing collections? What are the stories behind the masterpieces? How did major artworks travel between countries as war booty from the 1500s to looted art in WWII? Some collectors were royalty, some were trying to establish their status through art, while others just amassed riches to enjoy. Whether you want some background to your museum visits, or just to enjoy the stories of history, this has plenty to interest and intrigue. Museums include the Louvre, the Hermitage, the Frick Collection in New York and London's Court-aud Institute.

6 units \$78
Course No: D236

Meet



Dr Anne Harbers tutor

Anne is one of WEA's leading tutors, specialising in the history of art.

She received her M. Art History from University of Sydney in 2014. She frequently visits The Netherlands whilst working on her PhD, which is on the 17th century Dutch still-life and marine painter Abraham van Beyeren.

Anne also holds an MBA and Masters research degree in science, and she worked for 30 years in medical research and international business, before following her passion for art.

She currently works as a lecturer within the Business faculty of the University of Sydney. Her current art history research interests lie in Dutch 17th century art, and in the wider field of 17th and 18th century European Art and Decorative Arts. She has published on topics relating to art and science, and also collecting.

WEA's **NEW** Study Program for Individuals

Study at your own pace, in your own time!

Not part of an established discussion group, or wish to study one of our select courses individually at your own pace? Our new **Study Program for Individuals** provides this study mode for some of our popular Discussion Group courses.

These courses (listed below) include a **course book and access to the video presentations** by the tutor, designed so that individual students can work through the linked sessional material in their own time (each 30 minute video aligns with a unit in the book).

Upon enrolment you'll be sent a course booklet in electronic format, and a link to the fully illustrated YouTube presentation videos.

Note: these courses designed for individual study and **do not** come with discussion questions.

There is no direct tutor contact during these courses.



Dr Anne Harbers presents:

A Celebration of 400 Years of Women Artists

Full course description on page 7 or see our website.

5 units \$44
Course No: D400

From French Royalty to Empire – Art and Decorative Elegance from Louis XIV to Napoleon

Full course description on page 6 or see our website.

4 units \$42
Course No: D401

Dr Robert Forgacs presents:

Portraits of Russia: Rublëv, Pushkin, Turgenev, Borodin, Rimsky-Korsakov and Tchaikovsky

Full course description on page 7 or see our website.

6 units \$48
Course No: D402

Portraits of Scandinavia

Full course description on page 8 or see our website.

6 units \$48
Course No: D403



Armchair Travels

SONYA THOMPSON MA

Visit 6 extraordinary destinations without leaving home. Examine their history, what continues to draw travellers, and options for 'virtual travel'. We visit Rapa Nui (Easter Island), unique, remote, mysterious; Vladivostok, Russia, once closed, now Russia's gateway to the East; Kasane, Botswana, in Africa's kingdom of the elephants; Lukla, Nepal, on the Everest Base Camp Trail; Villarrica, Chile, adventure hotspot with glaciers, ancient forests and a volcano whose name means 'the devil's house'; and Zhetisu, Kazakhstan, once a strategic stronghold on the Silk Road, now famous for the collection of wonders called the Golden Ring of Zhetisu.

6 units \$78
Course No: D244

Group Feedback:

Armchair Travels

SONYA THOMPSON

Overview: "We very much enjoyed this course. It has introduced us to several lesser known travel destinations with information to whet the appetite."

Course Content: "Each unit focused on a town and its surrounding natural areas, with a little of its culture and history. It covered a broad range of issues."

Course materials: "Very good – the notes were comprehensible; enhanced with a number of coloured images which was much appreciated. There were a number of references and links to videos which gave us additional information and visitors perspectives on the places. Sonya also provided us with a separate file that enabled us to simply click on a link to websites and videos."

Discussion Questions: "were relevant, gave us the opportunity to reflect on some of our own experiences. They served to reiterate what we had read in the course notes and allowed us to expand with additional information we found on the internet."

Tutor's replies: "Good and relevant to our reports. Replies were very prompt and questions answered. Having the tutor join one of our Zoom meetings was a bonus. Something we may be able to do more regularly with a video link."

WEA Tutor Talk at Dubbo Library

Earlier in the year Dubbo Library (a branch of Macquarie Regional Library) welcomed popular WEA Discussion Group Program tutor Cavan Hogue to give free talks on his **A History of China** and **A Short History of Russia** courses, as well as to introduce the Discussion Group Program to the community.



Cavan has had a long and distinguished career as an Australian diplomat, having served in Seoul, Rome, Mexico City, Santiago, Manila, and Jakarta. He's been the Ambassador to Mexico and also Australia's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. His final diplomatic appointment was as Australia's Ambassador to Thailand from 1994 to 1997.

Cavan had been in Dubbo to meet with the Dubbo Discussion Group – it was at WEA's expense that he travelled from Sydney to Dubbo, and back, via Rex Airways and train.

The talks were well received, with both Cavan and participants reporting the success of the visit.

Plan a visit from a WEA Tutor

Our tutors are available to visit your group as part of your course inclusions, or to visit your local library as Cavan did, anywhere in NSW!

Contact WEA Sydney for advice, and support – or if you're currently doing a course, discuss these details with your tutor.





Biology and Destiny

ADAM MARCHANT BSc (Hons) PhD

A perennial topic of philosophical speculation is the question of personal autonomy, or 'what we can choose' versus 'what is pre-ordained for us'. This debate is now coming into the realm of experimental science. We may soon be in the uncomfortable position of being provided with answers! Discuss various aspects of what its detractors call 'biological determinism', and relevant ideas and findings from contemporary genetics, neurobiology and evolutionary theory, and examine these from scientific, philosophical and political perspectives.

6 units \$78
Course No: D163

Wombats, Wattle, Wilderness, World Heritage and Wellbeing

JANINE KITSON BA MEd (Hons)

Discover Australia's amazing wilderness – which like most of the world's wilderness is disappearing due to human modification of the land. Learn about its history, breathtaking beauty and why it's so very important looking into the future. Wombats too are endangered – what makes these unique creatures important and what can we do to protect them? The Blue Mountains, Fraser Island and the Great Barrier Reef are just some of Australia's World Heritage areas – what are the benefits and disadvantages of such a listing, and is World Heritage itself under threat? Plus wattle, forest bathing and more!

5 units \$68
Course No: D243

The joy of reading: belonging to a discussion group

WEA Sydney's Discussion Group Program is based on reading – study notes, set texts, additional material – then discussing this reading in a friendly, tutor-supported setting.



It's part of a wider development of book groups or clubs, held by local libraries, bookshops or friends. An article, The Joy of Reading Groups, summed up what all these different types of groups get from their reading and study:

"Reading is generally seen as an individual activity but a reading group creates a climate that is conducive to learning as participants actively work together, talk to each other and engage in reading collaboratively. Reading groups can build confidence in speaking in groups and develop oral communication skills to express opinions, summarise information and present an argument or train of thought in a coherent way."

Above all...

"Reading is not a passive process, it involves problem-solving, active prediction (guessing), searching and an ability to use past knowledge and experience to make sense of what we are reading."

So don't miss out – reading and discussing is a vital skill. Keep your brain active, develop your knowledge, enhance your skills – all with WEA Sydney's Discussion Group Program.

Article source: "The Joy of Reading Groups" – Sue Southwood, 2012



NEW

Living on the Edge – Life in Extreme Environments

SONYA THOMPSON MA

We visit the highest, the coldest, the hottest, the wettest and the driest cities or towns on earth. How and why were they established, what's it like to live there, and how do they survive in such extremes? Finally, as our own environment in Australia changes, is there anything we can learn from these places?

5 units \$68
Course No: D252

Forbidden Places

SONYA THOMPSON MA

Examine 6 'forbidden places': countries or locations which were closed to outsiders for different reasons and by different means. Examine how and why visitors were prohibited, what the powers who enforced exclusion hoped to achieve, what this meant for these places and the people who lived there, the long term effects of exclusion and how restrictions were eventually removed. We visit Pripyat (Chernobyl), Ukraine; Area 51, Nevada (USA); Ancient Palace (Forbidden City) Beijing, China; Cuba; Kyoto, Japan; and Uluru, Northern Territory.

6 units \$78
Course No: D247

Independent Group Study



These courses are available for study by groups without a tutor (so there's no need to write reports).

They were written by tutors who've now retired. Some courses were written a number of years ago, and therefore contain references to events which are now more historical than current. Some come with book boxes, but most are supported only by coursebooks. However all are still entertaining, well-produced and worthwhile.

Rebellion! Behind the Eureka Stockade

JILL BLEE PhD Hist MA Writing (author)
On the morning of December 3 1854, soldiers and police descended on the inhabitants of the stockade thrown together on the Eureka Lead in Ballarat. 15 minutes later, 22 miners lay dead and the rebellion against the Crown's authority was quashed. The issues driving the miners to erect the stockade weren't unique to Ballarat; discovery of gold in Australia exposed government incompetence which tried to maintain control by employing power hungry officials to impose unjust policies on free men. Tension brewed on Castlemaine, Bendigo and other goldfields before it came to a head at Ballarat.

6 units \$48
Course No: D198

Emigrate or Die! The Great Irish Famine

JILL BLEE PhD Hist MA Writing (author)
The Great Famine devastated Ireland between 1845 and 1850, taking the lives of up to one and a half million people, and forcing another 2 million to leave Ireland forever. This famine driven tide of immigrants had great and lasting repercussions in the countries in which they settled. Examine the magnitude of the disaster by tracing its origins and the political, social and economic setting of the famine. Also look at issues arising from migration.

6 units \$48
Course No: D131

The Sacred Way: Women's Mysteries in the Ancient World

SUSANNE GLOVER BD (Hons) Mth PhD (author)
Explore the lives of women in ancient times through their religious beliefs and rituals, many of which survive today. Examine the close association of religion with fertility and discover that religion was often how women could realise their talents and express their deepest needs, in addition to acquiring a measure of power and status. In the Ancient Middle East, women were considered more sensitive to the spiritual world, but more vulnerable to evil spirits; a belief lingering subconsciously in the Christian debates over women priests.

6 units \$48
Course No: D199

A Women's Sphere: How 19th Century British Women Created a Social Revolution that Changed the Empire

SUSANNE GLOVER BD (Hons) Mth PhD (author)
In 19th century Britain and her colonies, the socio-religious doctrine known as 'The Two Spheres' defined the roles of men and women in society. Two clearly delineated spheres – the masculine sphere of action, politics, economics, education and religion; the feminine sphere of hearth and home where women were subservient to father, husband or brother because by law they were 'minors' unfit to have an independent voice in society. Women were denied higher education, public office, their own income, and in the event of divorce, access to their own children. Look at notable women and men who challenged this doctrine and changed social attitudes and the laws limiting women's rights and opportunities.

6 units \$48
Course No: D182

Australian Stories: The Outback

MARK BYRNE PhD (author)
Robyn Davidson calls the outback Australia's 'mythological crucible'. From the early idea of an inland sea, the disappointment and fear of the 'dead heart', to its modern imagining as a place of beauty, mystery and renewal, the outback has been the most powerful symbol in the Australian psyche. After a historical and psychological introduction, explore major narratives of journeys to and in the outback from literature and films of the last 50 years, from Patrick White's seminal *Voss* to *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Look at the gradual shift from outback to coast as the locus of Australian imaginings of love, death, and belonging.

6 units \$48
Course No: D169

Hell on Earth – Norfolk Island's Convict Story

JILL BLEE PhD Hist MA Writing (author)
Norfolk Island, a South Pacific 'paradise', was a dumping ground for the worst criminals of the colonial system and allowed terrible abuses of penal servitude to flourish unrestrained. The island, now in the hands of the gentle Pitcairners, still bears the scars of that terrible time.

6 units \$48
Course No: D141

Women of the Raj

SUSANNE GLOVER BD (Hons) Mth PhD (author)
India in the late 19th century was considered the Jewel in the Crown of the British Empire. Lured by its romance, all kinds of women went to India. Some were in search of a husband; some in search of adventure and others were on a mission for God. Recent history portrays white women as cultural imperialists. Were they? Or were they agents of social change?

6 units \$48
Course No: D186

Best of the Best: Famous Literary Characters

JUDY HARTSHORNE BA DipEd (author)
Of all the characters we meet in our reading lives, there are few who become very real to us – so real that we feel we actually know them. Look at how writers can achieve this by the way they use description, conversation and interaction. This is a collection of starting points for you to discuss your own ideas. Texts are well known: Elizabeth Bennet and her Darcy, Sydney Carton and Captain Corelli, Mr Collins and Mrs Danvers and more, grouped under the units 'Men With Attitude', 'Feisty Females', 'A Congregation of Clerics', 'Minor Characters with Clout', and 'American Marvels'.

5 units \$44
Course No: D207

British India – Fact and Fiction

JILL BLEE PhD Hist MA Writing (author)
From European fascination with the Orient through to the formation of the East India Company, and from the growth of Empire during the 19th century and its demise in the 20th century, the history of British India is explored. As this topic has attracted some of the best writers the English speaking world has known, you're invited to read from the extensive book list provided and incorporate their opinions on the authors and their attitudes, commented on with each chapter.

6 units \$48
Course No: D235

Men of Parts: Literature's Greatest Writers

JUDY HARTSHORNE BA DipEd (author)

While many writers are gifted in a single genre, few are able to excel in a number of styles. Look at 5 such men: William Shakespeare, dramatist and poet; John Donne, poet and divine; Oscar Wilde, dramatist, poet, story writer and novelist; TS Eliot, poet and dramatist; and Seamus Heaney, poet prose writer and translator. Become familiar with their works and delve deeper.

6 units \$48
Course No: D215

Quoting Shakespeare

JUDY HARTSHORNE BA Dip Ed (author)

The words of Shakespeare are alive. After 400 years people still quote from his famous speeches, for as Ben Jonson said of his friend: 'he was not of an age but for all time'. Explore some famous speeches from a variety of Shakespeare's plays. Analyse why they work so well within their context, and investigate just why these words and sayings continue to fascinate people today. Look for situations that elicit suitable quotations and discover why Shakespeare continues to live amongst us today.

5 units \$44
Course No: D180

'Man's Inhumanity to Man' – A Study of the Poetry of War

JUDY HARTSHORNE BA Dip Ed (author)

Some of the world's earliest writings are in the form of poetry, and many of them concern war or 'man's inhumanity to man'. Look at poems written before 1914; poems about World War I and Spain; World War II and subsequent wars. Historical background is included. Read poets from the best of their day to absolute unknowns.

5 units \$44
Course No: D184

Reading Novels – The Joys of Double-dipping

JUDY HARTSHORNE BA DipEd (author)

Of the thousands of novels published every year, very few go on to become classics; not many reach great critical acclaim; but a few demand to be read and then re-read. Examine plot, characters, setting, different eras, and naturally the quality of the writing through a review of selected passages. No detective, no fantasy – just abiding classics, from authors such as Jane Austen, F Scott Fitzgerald, Harper Lee, Shirley Hazzard, E M Forster, Hemingway, De Bernieres, Proulx, and yes, *The Wind in the Willows*.

5 units \$44
Course No: D202

Down Memory Lane: Famous Poems We Knew and Loved

JUDY HARTSHORNE BA Dip Ed (author)

We all have snippets of poetry in our minds, whether it's 'Tyger, tyger burning bright...', or 'shall I compare thee to a summer's day...', but not all of us know the whole poems from which famous lines come, who wrote them, or what their proper context is. Explore a multitude of entertaining excerpts from famous, well-loved poems organised into themes: descriptive poetry; love poems; eulogies and nonsense poems; Australian examples; and patriotic ideas. Enjoy some of the greatest writing in English – and be reminded of the cycle of your lives, and the moments when you first read these wonderful works.

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Jerusalem and the End of Days

SUSANNE GLOVER BD (Hons) Mth PhD (author)

Explore the symbolic and mythological significance of Jerusalem to the 3 Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Cover in brief the tortuous history of the conflict between the Children of Abraham over the Holy City and its territory; a conflict which is a potent mix of nationalism and religious fervour which continues to impede all efforts at a peaceful resolution.

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Course No: D214

The Prophet of Nazareth

SUSANNE GLOVER BD (Hons) Mth PhD (author)

Examine the latest scholarship on the historical Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus wrote no books or letters. His teaching was purely oral, so we have to rely on the transmission of his words by others for even an inkling of what he taught. How reliable are the sources? Why are only Four Gospels ever quoted when there are many more? The New Quest for Historical Jesus challenges tradition at every level.

6 units \$48
Course No: D172

Myth and Religion

SUSANNE GLOVER BD (Hons) Mth PhD (author)

Myths lie at the foundation of every society. They inspire us, justify our beliefs and ceremonies, comfort us and contribute to our identity as a people and a nation. Myths deal with ultimate questions of life and death, incalculably shaping us. Enter the mythical worlds of Bardo, purgatory, paradise and hell. Explore European and Asian folklore, shamans and Druids, and consider the power of myth making in the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

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The Five Pillars of Islam

SUSANNE GLOVER BD (Hons) Mth PhD (author)

Islam is a major world religion. Mosques and minarets are distinctive landmarks in most capital cities of the world. Examine the religion and cultures of Islam, covering the basic tenets as well as controversial questions, such as the role of women in Islam and Moslem engagement with the West.

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Alexander the Great

KAY HEYCOX BA TESOL (author)

The mystique of Alexander the Great is timeless. Ideas and images of this young, handsome Macedonian have haunted historians from both East and West for over 2000 years. Why? What is the ongoing significance of this short, violent life? We seek to discover what, if any, were his lasting accomplishments. Looking at his life and death we try to understand the broad-reaching cultural ramifications of the great clash of Eastern and Western civilisations he unleashed. Explore the lives and times that were the backdrop to his exploits.

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The Victorians: England from 1830 to 1900

DAVID MILLAR MA (Hons) (author)

Once scorned, the Victorian period is now seen as one of great vitality and creativity, a time that saw changes that would prove seismic in their effect upon English political, social and cultural life. Examine the great movements such as Romanticism, Aestheticism, Classic and Gothic Revival, the Industrial Revolution and The Rising Middle Classes with their Houses and Gardens.

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Course No: D174

The Poetry of Sydney

ANNE PENDER BA (Hons) MEd GradDip(Ed&Pub) PhD (author)

Explore *Sydney's Poems*, an anthology for the 150th anniversary of Sydney, containing contributions from poets of colonial days to the present including Henry Lawson, Dorothea McKellar, Kenneth Slessor, Patrick White, David Malouf and John Tranter. Look at the role 'place' plays in inspiring poets, developing a national psyche, and influencing how we feel about ourselves, our culture and our history. Text: R Gray & V Smith (eds), *Sydney's Poems*. **Includes Book Box**

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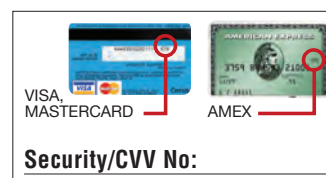
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