

Twilight Lecture Series- 2020/21

The twilight lectures are aimed at students currently studying at Level 3, to complement their studies and to provide an insight into studying these disciplines at degree level. Both students and their teachers are welcome. Students are permitted to attend independently.

All sessions will take place on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon 4:30-5:30 virtually via Zoom.

Term 2

Date	Discipline	Session
Tues 19 January	English Literature	<p>Critical Approaches to Literature</p> <p>How has the study of literature evolved and in what different ways can texts be critically analysed? This talk will introduce a range of theoretical approaches to literature including Marxism, feminism, queer theory, psychoanalysis, postcolonialism and new historicism.</p> <p>24 Lecturer: Dr Daniel Weston</p>
Tues 2 February	Maths	<p>The Thinking Tools of Mathematics</p> <p>What do we really mean by negative numbers and by numbers that have infinite decimal expansions? How can we be sure of what a number is if we can't write it down? In fact, do numbers really exist anyway? This talk will present an accessible and historical account of the ideas that lead to the development of number systems in mathematics.</p> <p>Lecturer: Dr Neil Saunders</p>
Tues 09 February	English Literature	<p>Exploring the Meaning of Victorian Poetry</p> <p>Victorian poetry can seem daunting and it can be hard to move from identifying poetic techniques towards an understanding of what those techniques are being used to express. This talk will help you find ways of understanding both how Victorian poetry works and what kinds of ideas Victorian poets were aiming to explore.</p> <p>Lecturer: Dr John Morton</p>
Weds 17 February	Forensic Science	<p>Forensic Science: We all know what that is- or do we?</p> <p>What really is Forensic Science and how has the way it is viewed in both popular culture and the judiciary changed in the past 15 years?</p> <p>Lecturer: Linda Brownlow</p>

Weds 24 February	Geography/ Science	<p>Land and sea-level changes in the British Isles: implications for coastal management.</p> <p>There is popular belief that Britain is tilting, with uplift in Scotland and subsidence in southern England. With current global sea level rising at about 3mm per year, any land subsidence in Southern England will increase the relative rate of sea-level rise in the region and reduce the design life of coastal defences. This talk will look at the evidence for past and present land and sea-level changes in the British Isles and look at the implications of future changes for coastal management.</p> <p>Lecturer: Andrew Haggart</p>
Tues 09 March	English Literature	<p>Death in Shakespeare and Jacobean Tragedy</p> <p>Elizabethan and Jacobean tragedy is dominated by tragic heroes such as Hamlet, Othello and the Duchess of Malfi and their inevitable confrontations with death. This talk will consider Renaissance ideas and beliefs surrounding death and the afterlife and the way Shakespeare and his contemporaries use death to explore what it means to be human.</p> <p>Lecturer: Dr Jennifer Young</p>
Tues 16 March	Science Biology	<p>Fantastic Flowers: Advertising for Pollinators</p> <p>Flowers are stunning, colourful and show an incredible range of phenotypes (varying scents, shapes, colours). This talk will introduce how flowers have evolved to ensure they are visited by pollinators in a competitive environment, and what some of the most recent research is teaching us about why flowers look and smell the way they do.</p> <p>Lecturer: Dr Sarah Arnold</p>
Tues 30 March	English Literature	<p>Literature and the History of Feminism</p> <p>From the early days of the women's movement, literary texts by both women and men played a part in international debate about sexual inequality and the need for change. This talk considers poems by Christina Rossetti, the plays A Doll's House and Top Girls, and the novel The Handmaid's Tale, relating each to the history and the theory of feminism.</p> <p>Lecturer: Dr Harry Derbyshire</p>

Tues 20 April	English Literature	<p>American Fictions and National Identity</p> <p>The American literature of the twentieth century is a central expression of the developing national identity of the United States. This talk will consider landmark texts including <i>The Great Gatsby</i>, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> and <i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison in relation to the diverse American experience they document.</p> <p>Lecturer: Dr Justine Baillie</p>
Weds 21 April	Economics	<p>The Globalisation of Finance: How big is too big?</p> <p>What do data tell us about the growth of the financial sector, both in the UK and globally, over the past decades? Is this rate of growth desirable? To investigate these questions, we will look at how economic theory has traditionally understood the role of finance in the economy. Is it up to the task? The case for pluralism in economics - that is, learning from different ways of thinking - will be highlighted.</p> <p>Lecturer: Jeff Powell</p>
Weds 5 May	Engineering	<p>Can Civil Engineers Save the World?</p> <p>We have all gradually become aware of the potential catastrophe of climate change, we are seeing more and more extreme weather; droughts, floods, fires and melting icecaps. Most people have changed their behaviour to some extent and tried to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels and plastic, but to see real change we will need much more dramatic interventions at a global level. This lecture will touch on some of the many things that civil engineers are doing to reduce energy consumption, provide sustainable infrastructure, and contribute to a range of initiatives and projects designed to reverse the effects of climate change. The lecture will appeal to anyone considering studying civil engineering and with an interest in sustainability, climate change, and the built environment. They are certainly trying, but can civil engineers really save the world?</p> <p>Lecturer: Deborah Sims</p>
Weds 12 May	Geography/ Science	<p>Summer of (20)69!?: An introduction to climate adaptation.</p> <p>What would you do if the hottest day in summer was > 6°C degrees hotter than pre-industrial levels? What can we do if a whole month of rain falls in single day? Before the end of the century parts of England may to deal with just that! As a species we have always adapted to a changing climate, but the pace of human induced climate change means that populations around the world will have to make drastic behavioural and</p>

		<p>infrastructural changes in the coming decades. This talk will introduce the basics of climate adaptation, stressing the dangers of mal-adaption such as locking in responses to near term stresses at the expense of preparing for more significant impacts over a longer-term. An important distinction will be made between having a theoretically high generic capacity to adapt, (i.e. a strong diverse economy) but lacking specific expertise for particular types of impact. What are the lessons we can learn from economies and communities in developing regions that might not have economic influence but have accumulated practice and knowledge to adapt to explicit climate impacts?</p> <p>Lecturer: Conor Walsh</p>
Tues 18 May	Psychology	TBC
Weds 19 May	Science	<p>Introduction to Cancer Biology</p> <p>This lecture will introduce students to the molecular biology of cancer. It will review how agents that cause cancer lead to mutations in DNA in cells. Most interestingly, it will highlight the applications of our knowledge of studying cancer cells to prevention and treatments.</p> <p>Lecturer: Professor Lauren Pecorino</p>