



University of the Third Age
Dunedin

2018 Series 1 Course E

Title	Poetry of W B Yeats
Dates	Thursdays 8 March – 19 April 2018
Time	2:15 pm – 4:15 pm
Venue	Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke St, North Dunedin
Convenor	Sue Harvey Email: rsharveynz@yahoo.com Phone: 478 0057 Mobile: 021 1896 196
Developer	Chris Ackerley
Course fee	\$45

These six talks on William Butler Yeats, presented by Emeritus Professor Chris Ackerley, will accentuate (a) the transition of Yeats from a Romantic to a Modernist poet and (b) the continuity throughout his entire life of the great theme of the imagination. The constant chord will be his attraction to the transcendent and the occult, on the one hand, but equally and inescapably his focus upon small, everyday particulars. If Yeats lived with his head in the mystical clouds much of his life, his feet were planted firmly (if sometimes reluctantly) on the ground. The dialectic between these oppositions creates, arguably, his greatest poetry.

All applications must be received by **Thursday 8 February 2018**. You will receive a response to your application by Monday 19 February.

Please contact the U3A Board Secretary (info@u3adunedin.org.nz, 453 4721) with any queries.

Poetry of W B Yeats

This course will be presented by **Emeritus Professor Chris Ackerley** who retired in 2015 after 39 years in the English Department at the University of Otago.

The approach to WB Yeats will be chronological, with each talk focussed around one or two major poems. Course members can find the text in any of the various collected or selected *Poems* of W B Yeats; the edition does not matter, as long as the poems below are included.

- 8 March**
 - **Introduction**
 - Showing of the RTÉ documentary, *A Fanatic Heart*

- 15 March**
 - **Yeats the Romantic:** 'To the Rose Upon the Rood of Time' and various shorter lyrical pieces
 - **The early Yeats,** and the transition into the Modernist

- 22 March**
 - **Yeats and politics** ("the quarrel with ourselves"): 'September 1913' and 'Easter 1916'

- 5 April**
 - **Yeats, the occult and the everyday:**
 - 'The Second Coming'
 - 'Leda and the Swan'
 - 'The Circus Animals' Desertion'
 - 'Lapis Lazuli'

- 12 April**
 - **Yeats and the imagination** (poetry of the great sequence, *The Tower*): 'Sailing to Byzantium' and 'Among School Children'.

- 19 April**
 - **Yeats, the active and the contemplative:** 'Meditations in Time of Civil War'