



University of the Third Age

U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

Series 2 2014

LITERARY THEMES

Dates: Thursday June 12 to July 17

Time: 10:00 to 12:00

Venue: Salmond College, Knox Street, North East Valley

Enrolments for this course will be limited to 55

Course Fee: \$40.00

Tea and Coffee provided

Course Organiser: Sue Harvey (478 0057)

Course Assistant:

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You may apply to enrol in more than one course. If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preferences on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 14 May. A response to your application will be mailed out on May 23rd.

Any questions about this course after May 23rd should be referred to Marjan Lousberg, U3A Dunedin, telephone 473 8224 or on email at marjan.lousberg@gmail.com

Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.

LITERARY THEMES

12 June and 19 June **Oedipus in Athens and Rome – Sophocles and Seneca** - The first session will consist of some background to the myth of Oedipus and its various meanings, followed by a close examination of Sophocles' treatment of it in *Oedipus the King*. The second session will give some background to Roman theatre and the wider context of Imperial Rome as a prelude to a close look at Seneca's *Oedipus*. If there is time we can look briefly at the significance of the ancient versions for modern presentations of the myth.

The texts will be my own translation of Sophocles – I have a number of copies, about 15, I can make available and it's in the university library. Of course familiarity with any translation will be fine. The Senecan text will be the Penguin, *Four Tragedies and Octavia*, which is generally available. For the background I'll devise a fairly detailed handout.

Dr Harry Love, Honorary Fellow, Department of Classics

26 June **Piers Plowman** - In this fourteenth-century poem Will, the narrator, sets out to discover how to lead a good life and so save his soul. He never does find a definitive answer but, for us his readers, the attempt proves richly rewarding both in the poem's spiritual qualities and in its lively and often satirical portrayal of life in medieval England.

Recommended text: William Langland, *Piers Plowman*, translated by Terence Tiller (Wordsworth Classics, 1999)

Presenter: Jenny Laws

3 July **Jane Austen – Crossover artist** - Jane Austen's status as a crossover star of both popular and highbrow culture is quite simply remarkable. I'll also explain how her allusions to the royal family, especially the wastrel dukes, reveal a greater political awareness than praise such as "timeless" and "universal" would suggest.

Presenter: Emeritus Professor Jocelyn Harris

10 July **Tolstoy and *War and Peace*** - Tolstoy's novel *War and Peace* (1869) is remarkable on a number of levels. It is very long - 1400 pages in my Russian edition. It relates historical events on a vast scale - the Napoleonic confederation's invasion of the Russian Empire in 1812, the occupation of Moscow, retreat and defeat. Above all we learn a lot about the author - Lev Tolstoy. The focus of the session will be upon the way the novel reflects aspects of the life and personality of Tolstoy, the writer. It will conclude with a different view of that personality, seen by two painters - Kramskoi and Repin.

You are advised to read the novel before the session!!

Presenter: Peter Stupples

17 July **The Struggle with Modernity in the Modern Japanese Novel** - This lecture will explore how modern Japanese writers since the late 19th century have used the novel both as an agent of modernization and as a means of reflecting the conflicts involved in modernizing a traditional Asian society.

Presenter: Associate Professor Roy Starrs