



## 2023 Series 3 Course D

- Title**            **Jorge-Luis Borges: The Tragedy of Idealism**
- Date**            **Thursdays 17 August – 21 September 2023**
- Time**            **10 am – 12 noon**
- Venue**           **Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke Street, North Dunedin**
- Convenor**        Alan Jackson  
Email: alanjackson@xtra.co.nz  
Phone: 027 531 9200
- Developer**      Chris Ackerley
- Course fee**      \$50 (please do not pay until you receive an invoice).

This course, presented by Emeritus Professor of English, Chris Ackerley, introduces Jorge-Luis Borges, the Argentinian short-story writer, essayist, poet and translator best-known for the short stories of *Ficciones*, and *El Aleph*. These appeared in the 1940s, and their curious fusion of realism, dream, mythology and metaphysics has affirmed his reputation as one of the greatest (both loved and respected) writers of the past century. The recommended text is *Labyrinths* (Penguin, 1963 or any other edition); the best preparation is to read for pleasure, to cultivate a taste for the curious blending of essay and fiction that defines his finest works. His longest and most complex work, 'Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius', the first in the volume but the last to be discussed, is not the best place to begin; it is better perceived as the culmination of these classes than as a point of departure.

**All applications must be received by Thursday 20 July 2023.** You will receive a response to your application by Monday 7 August 2022.

Please contact the Programme Secretary [courses@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:courses@u3adunedin.org.nz), phone 467 2594 with any queries.

## Jorge-Luis Borges: The Tragedy of Idealism

- 17 August**      **An Introduction to the Life of Borges**  
This talk introduces the Cardinal Points of the Fictions (*Ficciones*). A hand-out will be provided.
- 24 August**      **The Metaphysical Detective Story.**  
This presentation will centre on 'Death and the Compass'.
- 31 August**      **The Tragedy of Idealism**  
This theme will be illustrated by 'The House of Asterion' and 'The Circular Ruins'.
- 7 September**      **The Universal Library**  
This talk will discuss 'The Library of Babel', perhaps the most celebrated of Borges's *Ficciones*.
- 14 September**      **'Averroes's Search'**  
This talk will discuss "Averroes's Search", perhaps his most poignant and heart-felt tale.
- 21 September**      **Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius**  
An introduction to and discussion of Borges's longest and most philosophically complex work.