

COURSE INFORMATION Semester 1 2020

All courses will be held at the Port Fairy Community House unless otherwise notified.

Courses will commence in February 2020.

We have a semester break at the end of June and recommence at the start of August.

STORIES OF US: GREAT AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE

In this course we will read and discuss a selection of Australian literature including novels, short stories and memoirs written over the past century.

We will explore the ways in which Australian life in its diversity has been represented by the writers of these texts and how our sense of place, national identity and relationships with each other and the world have changed.

Each session will focus on two or three pieces of literature related to a particular theme.

Topics will include: pioneers, settlers and explorers; convicts, outlaws and criminals; growing up female in Australia; the impact of war and displacement; life on the margins; marriage, family and unconventional love; domestic life in suburbia; expatriate experiences; myths and heroes.

When: 2nd Friday each month, 1 -2.30. Begins 14 February.

Kate Donelan

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current Affairs sessions cover different set topics each week, ranging from local to international issues.

We generally discuss one or two key topics based on published or online articles provided by the group leader and/or the members. We finish with discussion of a cartoon- "a picture tells a thousand words".

We aim for respectful discussion on the topics, interspersed with our own life experiences.

When: 2nd and 4th Monday each month, 10 - 11.30. Begins 10 February.

Jill Burgoyne

WESTERN PHILOSOPHY: ANCIENT ROOTS AND MODERN THOUGHT

In 2019 Western Philosophy: Ancient roots and Modern Thoughts covered from Plato to the Middle Ages.

In 2020 we will revise these two millennia in one presentation then journey on to the Renaissance, the Enlightenment and early modernism.

Please see the separate web page on the U3A Port Fairy website.

Come and join the discussion!

When: 1st and 3rd Monday each month, 10-11.30. Begins 17 February.

Steve Mackey

SCIENCE...NATURALLY!

Science...naturally! explores the reasons why the environment and land around us looks like it does.

Why are the hills that shape?

What drives our weather?

Why do those plants live in a swamp while others live on dry land?

Led by a number of Port Fairy locals with a lifetime interest in geology, meteorology, ecology and a love of sharing ideas and information, the course provides the opportunity to discuss, research and work together to gain an insight into the workings of our magnificent natural environment.

The course is presented as a series of information sessions followed by field excursions to places near and far. It is suitable for all levels of fitness and is open to all – all you need is an enquiring mind and a joy of learning and sharing.

When: Information sessions: 2nd Thursday each month, 2-4. Begins 13 February

Field excursions: 4th Thursday each month, 1-4 (length depends on excursion location) .

John Miller 0427871714

PASSION FOR POETRY

If you love poetry and enjoy sharing it with others, this is for you.

Members are invited to bring along poems on a particular theme or by a particular poet which will be advised in advance.

Everyone is encouraged to be involved in theme choice and discussion.

Our poetry group will enjoy a wide range of poetry from well-known to not so well known. We will explore various poets and poetry along with a variety of themes.

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month, 10-11.30. Begins 4 February.

John Walker and Maureen Joyce

ESSAYS AND IDEAS

Robert Manne describes an essay as a short piece of non-fiction prose where the writer engages with their audience, revealing something about the way they experienced or analysed one or another aspect of the world.

This class discusses essays chosen from literary and political magazines, books of essays and a variety of publications.

Between meetings we read 2 essays for each session and discuss each essay's literary merit, content, interest and how it fits with our various experiences and beliefs. We will be reading a range of contemporary and classic essays from amazing writers in Australia and across the globe.

When: 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month, 10-11.30. Begins 11 February.

Maggie Currie 0419290232

EARTH, WIND & FIRE

The aim of the course is to present factual information about the capture and utilisation of natural resources, presented by experts involved in the various industries, to reveal the true story of natural resource utilisation in our local area.

The course will explore the exploitation of natural resources for human use with a focus on natural resources within the south-western region of Victoria. The aim is to explain and demystify the processes required to convert the natural resource into a form suitable for human use.

Course structure

One semester consisting of field excursions, led by industry experts, to relevant sites. Each excursion will be 2- 4 hours, including travel.

Topics may include:

- Hydrocarbons - gas and oil exploration and mining in the Otway Basin.
- Wind – site selection and planning, construction techniques, electricity outputs, impacts on humans and wildlife
- Trees – silviculture and the utilisation of timber products in south western Victoria
- Stone – quarrying and the use of stone products in south western Victoria.
- Water – the capture, use and disposal of water for domestic and agricultural use
- Fish – wild fisheries and aquaculture

When: 2nd Tuesday each month, 1– 5.00. Begins 11 Feb for 5 sessions.

Times may change depending on the particular excursion.

John Miller 0427871714

HISTORY OF PORT FAIRY

This class will examine the development of the unique community of the 'village' of Port Fairy, which was the background to important historical events.

It was populated by extraordinary characters and resulted from significant international, social and political influences.

The class is aimed at giving everyone the opportunity to discuss, research and work together to find out more about these aspects of the community in which we live.

The class is open to all with an enthusiastic interest in the early history of Port Fairy and the surrounding district.

When: On 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10-11.30. Begins 5 February.

The venue will be the Port Fairy Community House and the History Centre, as notified

Judith Kershaw

REGIONAL GALLERY VISITS

This course, as the title suggests, involves U3A participants visiting Art Galleries.

We plan to visit the particular galleries by public transport or by carpooling. Each person is responsible for getting their own transport and gallery tickets.

In the 2nd Semester of 2019 we visited the Ballarat Art Gallery and the Hamilton Gallery.

When: We plan to run 2 gallery visits this Semester.

Probable dates are Tuesday 31 March and Friday 29 May.

Maggie Currie and Maureen Joyce

THE GREAT COMPOSERS

We will be discussing the lives, the music and the times of six great composers: Bach, Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Schubert and Beethoven.

We will listen to and watch some video clips showing examples of their different musical styles performed by some of the world's best artists, and we will discuss how and why their music lives on so powerfully over the centuries.

When: Mondays 1-2.30.

Begins 17 Feb, then 16 March, 6 April, 27 April, 18 May and 22 June.

Eda Ritchie and Ruth Walters

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB: EXPLORING THE WORLD THROUGH FICTION.

Each month the group will meet to discuss a book: literary fiction from around the world. We will compare responses to the book, its characters, plot and structure as well as the insights it provides to the social and cultural world of its setting and its author. If the book chosen is a 'quick read' then more than one book is chosen, if all agree!

The class member who chooses the book(s) for the month generally leads the discussion which may include presenting background information on the author, reviews of the book and group discussion questions.

Group members are encouraged to have input into the selection of books for the year.

When: 1st Tuesday each month, 2-3.30. Begins 4 February

Julie Fall

MOVIE CLUB

This film group is open to everyone who enjoys films.

Following the regular screenings at the Reardon Theatre (usually the 3rd Friday of each month) members will meet on the next Tuesday afternoon to critique the movie including plot, actors and characters, direction, cinematography and more.

U3A members will also need to purchase a ticket for the film.

When: The first film will be screened on Friday 21 February.

The first discussion group will be on Tuesday 25 February, 2-3 at the Port Fairy Community House.

Subsequent discussion group meetings will be on the Tuesday following the movie.

Dave Digby

WANDERING THE WORLD - TRAVELLERS' TALES FROM NEAR AND FAR

This course presents a broad range of travel adventures undertaken by U3A members.

A different presenter for each session covers a range of travel experiences both within Australia and the far-flung corners of the world. All talks are illustrated and celebrate the joys of travel from the mundane to the spectacular, from the terrifying to the positively relaxing.

When: 4th Friday each month, 1.30 – 3.30. Begins 28 February

John Miller and Di Clanchy

WARS OF THE ROSES

The 15th century was a time of great chaos in England.

A series of wars raged across the country as the country's great houses fought for the Crown. Ambitious men, weak kings and strong women struggled for the right to rule and to protect their families.

White Rose versus Red Rose.

This course will examine the great events of this most tumultuous period of English history against a background of political discourse and civil society very different to what we now consider to be the norm. Why was England, which had enjoyed relative stability for eight generations of royal dynasty, plunged into ongoing turmoil?

Treason! Murder! Civil War!

When: Fridays, 10-11.30.

6 sessions fortnightly on the following dates:

17 April, 1 May, 15 May, 29 May, 5 June and 19 June.

Michael Crowe

THEATRE VISITS

The course is based around two trips to the theatre per year. It is likely that at least one of these trips will be to a matinee of a production in Melbourne.

The course will run for four weeks each semester and will consist of two sessions before the group attends the play, the trip to see the play and a final session to discuss the experience.

The plays will be selected from the 2020 theatre programs of the Melbourne Theatre Company, The Malthouse Theatre, Bell Shakespeare Company, Warrnambool Lighthouse Theatre and/or the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.

Participants will need to cover the cost of each performance, transport to the venues and accommodation (if required).

We will explore the plays both as written scripts and in production. We will

- study the history and background of the play and the playwright
- analyse the characters, style, themes, structure and conventions
- analyse and evaluate the acting, direction and design in the production
- evaluate the director's interpretation of the play in performance.

When: In each semester there will be one theatre excursion, two sessions before the play and a final session afterwards. Dates and times will be advised.

Mary Kerr and Kate Donelan

MAHJONG

The game of Mahjong was invented by the Chinese thousands of years ago.

Mahjong is a fascinating game and although it appears complicated, it is very easy once rules have been mastered. For the many people who have wanted to play this game, this is your chance.

Mahjong 1: for beginners to learn the rules.

Mahjong 2: for people who already know how to play the game.

When: Wednesdays 1.00 – 3.00.

Susan Goy

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS
<p>This is your opportunity to learn how to play Bridge.</p> <p>This course is designed for beginners who wish to learn the game. It offers guidance and lots of practice in relation to bidding and card play. All playing materials are provided.</p> <p>The facilitator is an experienced bridge player.</p>
<p>When: Tuesdays each week for 8 sessions, 10-12 . Begins 21 April.</p> <p>As knowledge and skills build up over consecutive sessions participants need to commit to attending every week.</p>
<p>Robin Southey</p>

INTRODUCTION TO BIRD WATCHING - WALK, TALK & GAWK
<p>The object is to introduce people with little or no knowledge of our local bird life observing the birds in their natural habitat.</p> <p>All sessions will be conducted in the field. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars (and a field guide if you have one).</p>
<p>When: Mondays, 2- 3.30.</p> <p>Dates: 24 February, 23 March, 27 April, 25 May.</p> <p>Limited to 5 places only</p>
<p>Philip Du Guesclin</p>

INTRODUCTION TO TAI CHI
<p>This six week course will be an introduction to Tai Chi.</p> <p>Tai Chi combines gentle physical exercise with stretching and mindfulness. It aims to improve balance and joint mobility.</p>
<p>When: Thursdays, 10-11.</p> <p>6 sessions weekly on the following dates: 7 May, 14 May, 21 May, 28 May, 4 June, 11 June.</p>
<p>Netta Hill</p>

PORT FAIRY SKETCHING
<p>Join a small group who will be sketching in and outdoors around Port Fairy.</p> <p>Improve your skills by sketching on location and sharing tips and techniques with course members in an informal way.</p> <p>The aim is to inspire and support one another as we sketch on location, with pen, pencil, ink, paint or other media of choice.</p>
<p>When: <i>To be advised -- once a month or as group decides</i></p>
<p>Maureen Joyce</p>

Enrolment in courses is subject to availability.

Every effort will be made to accommodate people's choices but places are limited in some courses.