

EXPLORE



FREE Week One
From Monday 3rd
October

Season 1
2016-17 programme

Explore Season 1 Programme 2016-17

The Season 1 programme follows on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'. Please bear in mind that there may be minor amendments as our tutors have their university teaching timetables confirmed for next year.

If you're new to Explore why not come and try the programme?

There are two options:

Attend any or all sessions in FREE Week One starting Monday 3rd October

Click [HERE](#) to see the Week One programme.

Or arrange a FREE taster session by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com

You need to join Explore in order to attend the sessions. Details of how to join Explore are available on our website: www.weareexplore.org.uk Most of our sessions require no advance booking—just turn up. However, for study groups, practical art and some walks, we do need to manage attendances. These sessions (only) have specific booking instructions in this programme.

If you are disabled and would require a helper in order to take part in Explore, the helper can attend without charge.

Explore Season 1 Programme 2016-17

Congratulations to the programming team -

Art History and Design: Jack Massey and Helen Watson

Narratives (Literature, cinema and Music) : Rita Prabhu and Angela Young

Perspectives (Science and Mathematics): Christine BurrIDGE, Maria Goulding, Mike Leddra and Joy Rutter

Culture & Society (History and Archaeology): Joy Rutter and Kath Smith

Philosophy: Joy Rutter

with direction from Bronwen Calvert & Colm O'Brien.

We are also grateful to [Ampersand Inventions](#) for our accommodation at Commercial Union House.

'It is not knowledge, but the act of learning, not the possession but the act of getting there, which grants the greatest enjoyment.'

Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855)

EXPLORE

FREE Week One

Try Explore!

**FREE
Week One
starting
Monday 3rd
October!**



Explore Season 1 2016-17 Overview

Week of		3rd Oct	10th Oct	17th Oct	24th Oct	31st Oct	7th Nov	14th Nov	21st Nov	28th Nov	5th Dec	
Mon	morning	Ian Ground 'Provocations'							Anthea Lang 'War and Peace'			
	morning	Morning art series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'										
	lunch	Lunchtime art series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'										
	afternoon		Peter Quinn 'Renaissance Studies : Seven Artists' (not 7th Nov)									Russell Baston
	evening				John Sadler 'Rolling Thunder in a Gentle Land'							
Tues	morning	Latin at the Lit & Phil										
	morning	Janet Atkinson 'Climate Change : Adaptation & Migration'					Beatrix Groves 'Dilemmas and Arguments'					
	morning	Morning narratives series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'										
	lunch	Lunchtime narratives series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'										
	afternoon		Michael Leddra 'Safe as Houses?'				John Griffiths 'Asian Crucible : a History of Manchuria'					
	afternoon		Martin Wheeler 'Words & Music'					Elayne Chaplin 'Cinematic Frontiers'				
	evening	Mike Green 'Musical Nationalism'										
Wed	morning	Fred Stevenson 'Introduction to the Night Sky'							Keith Bowey 'Was-Hail!'			
	morning					Michael Ayton 'Dante : an Introduction'				Michael Ayton		
	lunch	Lunchtime perspectives series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'										
	afternoon	Gavin Hardy 'Living on the Edge'					Alan Beale 'Tales from the Roman Arena ; Beasts, Executions and Gladiators'					
Thurs	morning	Morning culture & society series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'										
	lunch	Lunchtime culture & society series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'										
	afternoon	Gordon Reavley 'The Left and the Right'					Nick Cott 'British Politics 1870 to 1940'					
	afternoon		Bronwen Calvert 'Banned Books' study group (not 27th Oct)									
	evening	Bernician Studies Group (alternate weeks)										
Fri	morning	Miguel Angel Gomes 'The Original Nordic Noir : Icelandic Sagas'					Malcolm Grady 'Frontier Zones'					
	morning								Pamela Woof			
	afternoon		Lizzie Rowe 'Creating a Portrait' Practical Art									
Saturday			Practical Art Silvia Vera Mendoza	Field trip Mike Leddra Ripon	David Lowther 'Art in Modern Zoology'		Rachel Lister 'Genre & Identity : Shakespeare's Late Romances'	Peter Quinn 'Tarkovsky's Stalker: Exploring the Zone'	Practical Art Margaret Adams	Diana Scott 'Inside Out : transformative education'	Yukiko Kikuchi 'Music, Language & Syntax'	
			Field trip Mike Leddra		Rachel Lister 'Colette'					NEAES 'Theban Tombs'		Rachel Lister 'The Epic Hero'

Key

Philosophy

Art

Culture &
Society

Narratives

Perspectives

Monday

Philosophy Course: *from 3rd October to 14th November*

Provocations

Tutor: [Ian Ground](#)

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00



Each week we will take one provocative piece of philosophical text, carefully curated from our tradition, and explore its context, meaning, implications and relevance to contemporary debates. Topics range across philosophy, the arts, physics and cognitive science. Though each class is stand alone, the sum will amount to a fascinating tour of contemporary trends.

History Course: *from 21st November to 5th December*

War and Peace 1913-1919

Tutor: Anthea Lang

Venue: White Room 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

This three week course looks at life at home during the year before war was declared, the years of war itself and the first year of peace. The effect that the war had on the people at home is often overlooked but life after 1918 would never be the same as life before 1914.

Monday



Art History and Design on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
03 Oct	Peter Quinn	Gerhard Richter : on the adequacy of painting
10 Oct	Gordon Reavley	Bauhaus : the origins
17 Oct	Gavin Hardy	Botanic art in illuminated manuscripts
24 Oct	Malcolm Yorke	Bawden, Ravilious and the Great Bardfield artists
31 Oct	John Millard	Central Exchange Art Gallery , Newcastle (1870-1900)
07 Nov	Malcolm Gee	'Ballet Negre' to the Dakar-Djibouti ethnographic mission : French encounters with African Art c 1920-1937
14 Nov	Peter Quinn	Rodin and Balzac : monuments and modernity
21 Nov	Chris Yeats	'Home and Away' – how the Vane Gallery operates to create an international profile whilst being based outside of a centre of the art world
28 Nov	Michael Johnson	Islamic architecture
05 Dec	Peter Quinn	The West : landscape and progress in the US

Monday



Art History and Design on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
03 Oct	Peter Quinn	Thinking about Art : Bodies
10 Oct	Gordon Reavley	Bauhaus : the Mythology and the Reality
17 Oct	Gavin Hardy	Illustrations in Early Printed Herbals and Botanical Works
24 Oct	Colm O'Brien	Eagles, Boars and other Beast in the Pre-Christian World
31 Oct	John Millard	Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle (opened in 1904)
07 Nov	Malcolm Gee	From the Mato Grosso to New York – Claude Levi-Strauss' explorations of native American Cultures, 1935 – 1944
14 Nov	Peter Quinn	Thinking about Art : Objects
21 Nov	Colm O'Brien	Eagles, Calves and Lions : Iconography in Early Christendom
28 Nov	Michael Johnson	Dunn and Hansom : Architects of Catholic Newcastle
05 Dec	Peter Quinn	Thinking about Art : Global

Monday

Art History Course:

Renaissance Studies : Seven Artists

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30

Date	Title
10 Oct	Giotto
17 Oct	Roger van der Weyden
24 Oct	Donatello
31 Oct	Piero della Francesca
14 Nov	Albrecht Dürer
21 Nov	Titian
28 Nov	El Greco

Tutor: Margaret Adams

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Date	Title
7 Nov	Performance Art



Monday

Photography Seminar:

'Are Photos worth Anything?'

Tutor: Russell Baston

Date and Time: 5th December, 14.00 to 15.30

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

History Course: *from 17th October to 14th November*

Rolling Thunder in a Gentle Land

Tutor: John Sadler

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

19.00 to 20.30



For many, particularly in the USA, the Vietnam War defined the 1960s – 1970s and left a lasting impression on American polity and policy. It was probably the first war to be so intensely and immediately covered by journalists, led to deep divisions both in the USA & Europe and formed the trigger for urban terrorist movements such as Baader-Meinhof in Germany, Red Brigades in Italy, Action Direct in France. It also spawned a huge volume of literature and film. This course will look at both the narrative of the war and the consequences both in USA & Europe. The war was a game-changer for the post-war generation.

Tuesday



Classics : *from 4th October to 6th December*

Latin at the [Lit & Phil](#)

Tutor: Alan Beale & Adrian Spooner

Venue: Lecture room & Loftus room, Lit & Phil—note access involves climbing external steps

10.30 to 12.00

10.30 to 12.00

Explore members are cordially invited to join our Latin classes for £1 per session (donation towards room hire). We have 2 levels:

Intermediate will be using *Reading Virgil* by Peter Jones.

Advanced will be starting Virgil's Eclogues—text provided by the tutor.

We hope to introduce sessions for beginners once these two groups are ready to be combined.

Science Course: *from 4th October to 1st November*

Climate Change : Adaptation and Migration

Tutor: Janet Atkinson

Venue: Red Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

Tuesday

Science Course: *from 8th November to 6th December*

Dilemmas and Arguments

Tutor: [Beatrix Groves](#)

Venue: Space 3, 3rd floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00



This short course looks at improving your thinking and arguing skills! We'll get together to examine possible ethical/moral dilemmas from contemporary life, and look at ways of arguing for or against contrary standpoints. The sessions will be fun and very active, with a good chance to think through issues in friendly company.

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne



10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
04 Oct	Pamela Woof	<i>The Lyrical Ballads</i> - The Shock of the Supernatural: Coleridge, <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> 1798
shared		The three sessions undertaken by Pamela Woof this season are linked. Each class will be a coherent unity by itself, but together they will offer a deeper understanding of perhaps the most original and revolutionary volume in English literature. Some poems will be familiar, others less so. Today will be an introduction as to how the <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> came to be a anonymous volume by two young men who had recently got to know each other. Discussion will focus on the first, later revised, version of 'The Ancient Mariner' and the perplexity of the volume's first readers.
11 Oct	Michael Ayton	Ivan Turgenev's 'Bezhin Meadow'
		A magical story exploring the delicate threshold between life and death. A translation of this short story can be found at http://intersci.ss.uci.edu/wiki/eBooks/Russia/BOOKS/Turgenev/Bezhin%20Meadow%20Turgenev.pdf
18 Oct	Richard Moore	Frontiers and Childhood
		We will visit the childhood of famous writers such as Shaw, Wilde, Dickens, Gilbert and Emily Bronte - on the basis that the child is father or mother of the man/woman.

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne



10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title.
25 Oct	Martin Wheeler	<p>'A pregnant Polypus in sprouting Time': Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his Notebooks</p> <p>Coleridge kept private notebooks for something like forty years of his adult life. Coleridge is at once a poet who is admired for a handful of well-known poems and condemned as, in TS Eliot's words, a 'ruined man'. We shall see how the Notebooks show us glimpses of the deep psychological wellsprings of Coleridge's imagination, how their astonishing intellectual and imaginative richness compels us to expand our understanding of his role as author. The Notebooks reveal to us is that, in order to fully appreciate Coleridge, it is essential that we re-examine and recalibrate our concepts of authorship and literary attention.</p>
01 Nov	Colm O'Brien	The Hero's Journey in Bede's Ecclesiastical History: the case of King Edwin
08 Nov	Chris Heckels	Approaching the Play Text: A Director's View
15 Nov	Brian Burton	<p>Introduction to Ancient Drama</p> <p>This talk will explore the origins & development of ancient Greek drama, investigating not only its major practitioners but also the historical, archaeological & cultural significance of drama in the ancient world.</p>
22 Nov	Jessica Medhurst	tbc
29 Nov	Bronwen Calvert	<p>On the Frontier between Body and Machine: a short history of the literary cyborg.</p> <p>The cyborg is known in theoretical circles as a 'boundary creature' crossing the divide between organic and technological. We'll look at some versions of this mostly imaginary being, and I'll give you a preview of my forthcoming book <i>Being Bionic: The Worlds of TV Cyborgs</i>.</p>

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
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10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title.
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06 Dec	Elayne Chaplin	Hollywood and the Western Frontier - The Western – history, themes and ideology
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In this session, we'll be examining the representation of the western frontier in cinema. We'll begin by considering the history of this genre, and its portrayal of America's foundation mythology. With extracts from a range of films, we'll explore the evolving representation of nationhood, race, gender and identity, and the way that these intersect in the visual landscape of the western.



Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
04 Oct	Pamela Woof	<i>The Lyrical Ballads</i> - The Shock of the Natural: Wordsworth, <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> 1798 - Readers, assuming a single author, found it hard to assimilate the commonplace, ordinary, poor, old, desperate, and simple-minded who inhabit this volume. And they were shocked, having bought the book, to be told, "Close up these barren leaves". What pleasure or profit was to be had from 'Mad Mothers' or 'Idiot Boys?' What sort of a Poet was this? Discussion will centre on 'The Thorn'.
11 Oct	Michael Ayton	Ezra Pound's 'Lament of the Frontier Guard' One of the most moving of Pound's Chinese translations – we'll look at the poem and its genesis. The text of this short poem will be handed out in the class.
18 Oct	Richard Moore	Earth Magic and Frontiers of the Mind A new look at <i>Wuthering Heights</i>
25 Oct	Martin Wheeler	A pregnant Polypus in sprouting Time: Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his Notebooks – (Contd)
01 Nov	Colm O'Brien	Writing Saints' Lives: the case of Cuthbert
08 Nov	Chris Heckels	Bringing it to Life
15 Nov	Brian Burton	Ancient Greek Tragedy This talk will look at the dramatic methods & practices of Aeschylus, Sophocles & Euripides through literary analysis & historical / mythological context.

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
22 Nov	Jessica Medhurst	tbc
29 Nov	Bronwen Calvert	A Western in Space: Joss Whedon's <i>Firefly</i> Science fiction, mystery and the ensemble-cast TV drama. No previous knowledge needed – we'll look at some clips from this television series and discuss some of the issues it comments on (and raises!).
06 Dec	Elayne Chaplin	Hollywood and the Western Frontier - case study – John Ford's <i>The Searchers</i> (1956) We'll now focus on one key example of this genre – John Ford's <i>The Searchers</i> , seen by many critics as one of the most influential films ever produced in Hollywood. In this session, we'll be asking why this film is so important, and considering the ways that here, Ford (arguably the architect of this cinematic genre), re-evaluates some of the genre's underlying conservatism here – in response to the broader cultural changes in America during the 1950s.



Tuesday

Science Course: *from 11th to 25th October*

Safe as Houses

Tutor: Michael Leddra

Venue: Red Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30



Living in the North East we are well aware of the problems associated with by mining. Mining is not the only cause for the ground to move beneath our feet or houses. Following an introductory 'set the scene' session, over two weekends we will explore ground movement affecting two different villages and for two different reasons. This is designed to give you an insight into some of the causes of ground instability and how to recognise them. From past experience, following the two field trips, you may never look at a building in the same way again!

Plus two field trips 15th and 22nd October.

History Course: *from 8th November to 6th December*

Asian Crucible: a History of Manchuria

Tutor: John Griffiths

Venue: Red Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30



This huge region of North-East China was for centuries an area of contact and conflict between three empires: China, Russia and - later - Japan. It was the scene of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05, was made a puppet 'empire' by Japanese aggressors in 1932, and was the scene of some of the defining battles that led to the Communist victory of 1949. As well as a theatre of warfare, it was a stamping ground for warlords such as the tigerish 'Old Marshal' Zhang Zuolin, and for foreign adventurers including the journalist Putnam Weale, the

Tuesday



Literature & Music Course: *from 11th to 18th October*

Words and Music

Tutor: Martin Wheeler

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 16.00

Date Title

11 Oct Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent: how composers have responded to the literary canon (Part 2).

The quotation (Victor Hugo) suggests that music can articulate something deeply experiential beyond verbal expression. In this session we shall continue to reflect on what kind of relationship music can have with the written word. We shall listen to and discuss the responses of a diverse historical range of composers to a range of literary texts, from Beethoven to Rufus Wainwright. No technical knowledge of musical theory is required: this session follows on from last term's 'Prima la musica e poi le parole?' and will be an opportunity to hear some extraordinary musical settings of familiar (and perhaps some unfamiliar) texts, to explore just how composers have chosen to articulate what they have found in them and consider how this might reflect or even expand your own experience of these texts.

18 Oct Neither a Hero nor a Villain: George Crabbe, Benjamin Britten and *Peter Grimes*.

Britten's opera *Peter Grimes*, now a staple in the standard operatic repertoire, is seen as a defining moment in modern opera and has inspired a rich diversity of critical responses. Beginning with the long and involved history of composition of both music and libretto, including its adaptation of an obscure 18th century narrative poem, we shall reflect on both the personal and the historical, the 'interior' and the 'exterior' contexts of its origins and how these might impact on our appreciation of this extraordinary work. We shall look at the opera's troubled première at Sadler's Wells in 1945, its initial critical reception then, and consider ways – character, psychology, allegory - in which this tragic story can be understood today. We shall listen to a selection of defining moments in the opera itself – but this session is for all lovers of music, of singing and of opera and no

Tuesday

Film Course:

Cinematic Frontiers

Tutor: Elayne Chaplin

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 16.00

Date Title

08 Nov National Frontiers

This session will explore representations of place, identity and nostalgia within Hong Kong cinema during the period of the handover from Britain to China, focusing primarily on the films of John Woo and Wong Kar-wai.

15 Nov Ideological Frontiers

As China entered an 'open door' era, filmmakers began to use new freedoms to challenge the communist establishment – and in this session, we'll be exploring the high art and historical revisionism in the films of Zhang Yimou

22 Nov Technological Frontiers

Artificial minds and artificial bodies feature strongly in the animated cinema of Japan (Anime), and in this session, we'll be exploring the cultural significance of this – as well as its impact in the west with particular reference to the films of Oshii Mamorou (particularly, *Ghost in the Shell* and *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence*).



Tuesday

Music Course:

Musical Nationalism

Tutor: Mike Green

Venue: Space 3, 3rd floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

18.00 to 19.30

Date Title

04 Oct Russia and the Mighty Handful

11 Oct Scandinavia

18 Oct The Bohemians

25 Oct The Music of Spain

01 Nov A Green and Pleasant Land

08 Nov The New World

This season we will be exploring the concept of musical nationalism. We will look at the musical characteristics of six countries or areas and discuss how composers have highlighted and sustained the musical traditions of their homelands. The sessions will include listening to musical examples and discussion and do not require any formal musical knowledge. They are designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in music.

No prior knowledge of the topic is necessary.



Wednesday

Science Course: *from 5th October to 16th November*

Introduction to the Universe

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

Venue: Media Room, Newcastle Arts Centre

10.30 to 12.00

In this course we will discuss many different facets of astronomy. Firstly, the movements of the stars, planets, and moon throughout the night and throughout the year will be explained. Learn how to identify and observe stars and planets using the naked eye, binoculars and telescopes. We will then consider the make up of the universe - from our nearest neighbour the Moon to the most distant galaxies ever observed. During the past ten years there has been a tremendous advance in our understanding of the universe thanks to an explosion in technology - both ground based, with many huge telescopes being built around the world, and space-based, with spacecraft visiting various planets, asteroids and comets throughout the solar system. In this course we will discuss the many exciting discoveries being made using these telescopes and spacecraft.

No previous knowledge of astronomy or science is required.

Literature Course: *2nd to 23rd November*

Dante and his Contemporary World

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

There's no greater poet than Dante, and though approaching him can sometimes seem intimidating, there's no reason why it should be! By focusing in particular on the Florence of Dante's time and on his earlier lyric poetry, this course seeks to offer an engaging introduction to Dante's life and works and so provide a solid basis for further study. All texts will be supplied, and no prior knowledge is needed or assumed.



Wednesday

Course: *from 23rd November to 7th December*

"Was-hail!" - A Journey into the Natural Heritage of the Festive Season'.

Tutor: Keith Bowey

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

This will be 'a series of three illustrated presentations looking at how wildlife and the countryside have influenced how we celebrate what we call Christmas. It will examine the world of animals, plants and natural phenomena in relation to their profound influence on our mid-winter customs and traditions'



Literature Course: *30th November*

The Psalms: Poetry, Spirituality, Music

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Venue: White room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 13.30

The songs and poems that make up the biblical book of Psalms have, over many centuries, proven a source of joy, solidarity and comfort in both reading and performance. But what kind of poems were they originally, and what was their purpose? Have familiar translations of them illuminated or obscured what they mean and do? What role has music played in their reception? We'll read, listen, and try to find out.



Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
05 Oct	Christopher Newman	Space Law and Policy in the 21st Century
12 Oct	Javier Mungula	The Rise of 3D Printing : Misconceptions and Realities
19 Oct	Paul-Alan Armstrong	Reflexivity
26 Oct	tbc	
02 Nov	tbc	
09 Nov	Robin Johnson	'The story of how we learnt to solve equations—and how it all fell apart'
16 Nov	Colm O'Brien	Measuring Time and the Arithmetic of Easter Dating in Early Christendom
23 Nov	Keith Bowey	Eric Ennion : his time in Northumberland running the Monk's House Bird Observatory
30 Nov	tbc	
07 Dec	tbc	

Wednesday

Science Course: *from 5th October to 2nd November*

Living on the Edge

Tutor: Gavin Hardy

Venue: Red Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30



Plants have evolved to live just about everywhere - not just in comfortable warm, damp habitats. Explore the plant world of the frozen, the salty, the hot - and learn how they cope (or even thrive) in such difficult situations

History Course: *from 9th November to 7th December*

Tales from the Roman Arena: Beasts, Executions and Gladiators

Tutor: Alan Beale

Venue: Red Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30



According to the satirist Juvenal, Eppia, a senator's wife, ran off with a gladiator, while in small-town Pompeii the gladiator Celadus left a graffito telling us he was the 'girls' heartthrob'. Using the ancient evidence we will try to build a picture of the compelling and grotesque entertainment of the Roman arena. 'There will be a parade, a hunt of wild beasts, fighters, and the velarium,' as one graffito promises.

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
06 Oct	Nick Cott	Winston Churchill : the 'Tory Democrat' in Liberal Politics 1903-1925
13 Oct	Peter Stone	Cultural Property in Conflict and Peace
20 Oct	Marie Addyman	Lancelot Brown : a Very Capable Cliché
27 Oct	Malcolm Grady	Making Frontiers—Jeremiah Dixon—a Local Boy Done Good
03 Nov	Phil Steinberg	tbc
10 Nov	John Griffiths	Promenades and Monkey Walks : Walking and Urban Society
17 Nov	David Lowther	British Involvement in Nepal in the early 19th Century
24 Nov	Gordon Reavley	Car Wars : how Los Angeles lost its Streetcars
01 Dec	John Sadler	Beyond the Pale—a Return to the Cold War, perspectives
08 Dec	David Rosier	Emperor Qianlong 1735-1796 : the Life and Legacy of an Ultimate Ruler—'Ruling from the Dragon Throne'

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Frontier Zones'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
06 Oct	Malasree Home	Murder and Sanctity : the Strange Case of Little St. William of Norwich
13 Oct	John Griffiths	Mr. Lockhart's Cocoa Rooms
20 Oct	Marie Addyman	Lancelot Brown : a Very Capable Cliché (continued)
27 Oct	Andrew Parkin	Etruscan Mirrors
03 Nov	Simon Cotterill	Co-Curate Project
10 Nov	Malcolm Grady	Breaking Boundaries—Joseph Cowen—a Local Boy Done Good!
17 Nov	tbc	tbc
24 Nov	Colm O'Brien	The Venerable Bede : Living Far Outside the World
01 Dec	John Sadler	Rise of the Bear : the New Threat from the Kremlin
08 Dec	David Rosier	Emperor Qianlong : Ultimate Art Patron, Collector, Appraiser and Curator—'Owning the world'

Thursday

Course : *from 6th October to 3rd November*

The Left and the Right

Tutor: Gordon Reavley

Venue : Red Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30

There is a perception that throughout history some countries have tended toward the left or the right of the political spectrum: Italy, the right; France, the (revolutionary) left; America, conservatism and Republicanism and Austria, the right. Like most perceptions, digging below the surface reveals an alternative perspective.

Course : *from 10th November to 8th December*

British Politics 1870 to 1940

Tutor: Nick Cott

Venue : Red Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30



This series of five presentations will look at electoral politics in the period of the dawn of democracy in the late Victorian era to the onset of the Second World War. It will chart developments in the fortunes of the major political parties, including the rise and fall of the Liberal party, the rise of the Labour party and the revitalisation of the Conservative party (becoming the dominant force in British politics by the end of the period). It will look at some of the major policy issues, including the rise of state intervention in society and the economy.

Thursday

Literature Course:

Banned Books

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

Venue: Green Room, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



14.00 to 15.30

We'll read a selection of books banned in different countries for a variety of reasons:

Date	Title
13 Oct	Lewis Carroll, <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> (banned in China)
20 Oct	J.D. Salinger, <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> (banned in the USA)
27 Oct	NO CLASS
03 Nov	Harper Lee, <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (banned in the USA)
10 Nov	Harper Lee, <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (banned in the USA) (Contd)
17 Nov	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> (banned in Malaysia and Nigeria)
24 Nov	Yevgeny Zamyatin, <i>We</i> (banned in the USSR)
01 Dec	Yevgeny Zamyatin, <i>We</i> (banned in the USSR) (Contd)

This is a seminar-style course of 7 sessions. This is likely to be a very popular course so you are asked to make a firm commitment to attend. Room capacity makes it necessary to adopt a booking system for places. These will be allocated on a first come first served basis. To book a place on this course, please e-mail explorelitprog@gmail.com - (NOT THE EXPLORE OFFICE, PLEASE) and write 'Bronwen Calvert Booking' in the header.

Please also note that this booking is dependent on a confirmation of registration for the FULL Explore programme before 3rd October 2016.

Thursday

History Course: *6th, 20th, 31st October, 17th November, 1st December*

Bernician Studies Group

Tutor: Colm O'Brien and [Max Adams](#)

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne

18.30 to 20.30



This independent Study Group meets fortnightly in Commercial Union House. Current work includes investigating 'Cocwudu' - a possible ancient woodland between Wansbeck and Coquet; further magnetometry surveys in north-east England; and our continuing project researching the Early Mediaeval monastic sites we have identified in Donegal.

Explore members are welcome to join the CUH sessions reporting on and discussing this work and other topics of interest. [For insurance reasons, only members of the BSG itself can participate in fieldwork.]

Friday



History Course: *from 7th October to 4th November*

The Original Nordic Noir : a Study of the old Icelandic Sagas

Tutor: Miguel Angel Gomes

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

This course will explore some of the most popular narratives in the saga literature of medieval Iceland. Characters studied will range from ruthless warriors, prodigious drinkers and talented *skalds* to imposing matriarchs living in a world dominated by blood feuds, honour and fate.

History Course

Frontier Zones

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

- 11 Nov Tea : this will be an exploration of the frontiers that needed to be reached to satisfy an insatiable demand of the 19th century.
- 18 Nov Chocolate : this will be an exploration of how chocolate became a 'must have' item from the frontier zones of the known world.
- 25 Nov Potatoes : cheap as chips - what we owe to the frontier zones.
- 02 Dec Laudanum : a convenient remedy or a necessary evil? - an opiate frontier zone.
- 09 Dec Ice : from the North Pole -home of Santa Claus- to the domestic fridge.



Friday

Literature Special *18th November*

The Lyrical Ballads - The Enduring Appeal of the expanded Lyrical Ballads 1800 ed 1802

Tutor: Pamela Woof

Venue: Broadacre House, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 13.30

The strength of sympathy in the poems did much imaginatively - and politically - to shape modern literature. Though Michael, an old man, and a shepherd, was to suffer profound loss, the hills about him and earth's rhythms were able, at least for the reader, to place human grief and endurance in a permanent perspective. And Wordsworth felt the need to examine his own progress and development through time and loss. He turned his attention to his own heart. In this session we shall focus on 'Michael' and 'Lines written a few miles above Tintern Abbey'.

Practical Art Course *from 14th October to 4th November*

Creating a Portrait

Tutor: [Lizzie Rowe](#)

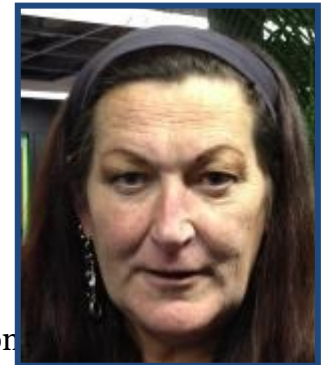
Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30

A friendly, informal class suitable for all levels of experience. We will learn how to approach making a portrait from scratch. If you have never drawn or painted before, you can try out some of the basic steps required to capture a likeness. We will be using any medium suitable for drawing and sketching **except oils**.

Please bring your own materials. You may be asked to contribute a small charge to offer the sitter an honorarium

As spaces are limited, please book a place on this class by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com or **contacting the Explore Office directly**.



Saturday

Practical Art Course :

Illustration : How to Illustrate a Children's Book

Tutor: Silvia Vera Mendoza

Saturday 15th October 10.30 to 13.30

Venue: Space 3, 3rd floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



The aim of this workshop is to get students to analyse and illustrate a text given by the tutor so that every person will produce a different interpretation of the gap bridged between text and image. This session will be an opportunity to explore illustration concepts of colour and composition, as well as several techniques, which will help both more and less experienced members to develop their artistic skills and to let themselves be carried away by their imagination as they work creatively. This workshop will be suitable for all levels of experience and different drawing skills. Any medium suitable for illustration will be used (e.g. charcoal, ink, water colours, pastels, collage, tempera...) but not oils. Students need to bring their own materials. As this is likely to be a very popular class and spaces are limited, please email weareexplore@gmail.com or contact the Explore Office direct to book a place on this class.

Science Course :

Runswick Bay field trip

Tutor: Michael Leddra

Saturday 15th October times to be confirmed

Venue: Field trip

Mining is not the only cause for the ground to move beneath our feet or houses. These field trips will look at ground movement affecting two different villages and for two different reasons. From past experience, you may never look at a building in the same way again!



These visits are part of a course, but can be enjoyed by anyone and are open to all members. It might be possible to arrange a minibus

Saturday

Science Course :

Ripon field trip

Tutor: Michael Leddra

Saturday 22nd October times to be confirmed

Venue: Field trip

See details above.



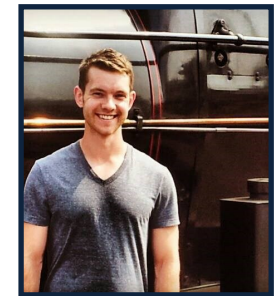
History / Art Course :

Imagining India : the Role of Art in the Origins of Modern British Zoology 1780-1840

Tutor: David Lowther

Saturday 29th October 10.00 to 12.00

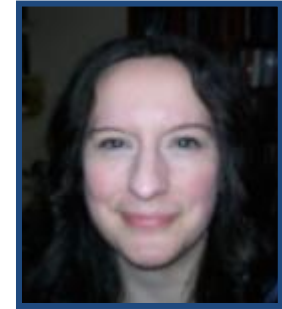
Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



In the decades before Darwin published his theory of evolution, zoology in Britain underwent a transformation. Driven by commerce, political expediency, and philosophical principle, British exploration of the world's remotest regions had revealed a seemingly endless array of new and often bizarre creatures that challenged long-established systems of interpreting the natural world. This distinctively 'imperial' science was based on a complex association of the concerns of scientific institutions in Britain and the activities of colonial naturalists, who provided much of the raw material with which innovative scientific theories about the nature of species were formulated. This material culture included specimens, alive and dead; written descriptions; and spectacular illustrations.

Some of the most important collections of early nineteenth-century zoological illustration are those accumulated by the Marquess Wellesley, governor-general of Bengal and elder brother of the Duke of Wellington, and Brian Houghton Hodgson, British Resident in Nepal, now housed in the British Library and the Zoological Society of London. This talk will explore the origins and creation of the

Saturday



Literature Course :

Introducing Colette : France's Greatest Woman Writer?

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Saturday 22nd October 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Blue Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

This session will introduce you to Colette, one of the twentieth century's most intriguing and controversial writers. It will cover the literary and historical contexts of her writing, offering insight into her highly unconventional life in Paris as an actress, journalist and mime and her marriage to the man who stole her literary identity. We will study extracts from her novels, novellas and short stories, asking how her writing fits into the modernist canon and focusing on her much-celebrated evocation of the senses.

Literature Course :

Genre and Identity: Shakespeare's Late Romances

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Saturday 12th November 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Blue Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Why did Shakespeare incorporate so many experimental elements into his late plays? How do we approach plays that continue to elude definition and divide the critics? How helpful is it to read these plays as early examples of magical realism? This session will consider these questions in detail while drawing connections with Shakespeare's earlier works. The main focus will be *The Tempest* and *The Winter's Tale*, although extracts from *Cymbeline* will be included.

Saturday

Art History Course:

Tarkovsky's Stalker

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Saturday 19th November 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Tarkovsky's Stalker : Exploring the Zone.

Time, Art and Film in the Twentieth Century



Practical Art Course:

Printmaking and Bookmaking

Tutor: Margaret Adams

Saturday 26th November 10.30 to 13.30

Venue: Blue Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



Over the past two years Margaret has introduced a number of printmaking and book making techniques. This year she will focus on helping you to develop these skills. You will be able to work on any of the processes that have been used. The workshop is open to all levels from absolute beginners to the more experienced members.

Places will be limited and therefore booking is necessary. Please email weareexplore@gmail.com or contact the Explore Office

Saturday

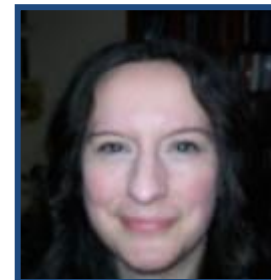
Literature Course:

The Epic Hero: Aeneas, Achilles or Odysseus?

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Saturday 3rd December 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Blue Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



What makes an epic hero? How does the Homeric hero differ from the Virgilian? This session will take a close look at the heroic credentials of the heroes of *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey* and *The Aeneid* and consider how the epic hero developed over time. The session will also offer the chance to discuss how ancient portrayals of heroism influenced later writers such as Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare.

North East Ancient Egypt Society

The Theban West Bank Tombs : New Research and Directions

Saturday 26th November 10.00 to 16.00

Venue : Bamburgh House Newcastle upon Tyne



NEAES is a valued partner of Joseph Cowen LLC and we are pleased to host their AGM and Annual Study Day, at which Explore members are welcome. Members of missions on the West Bank of the Nile at Thebes will discuss their work and research, and future prospects for the Theban necropolis.

Fuller details of the lectures will be provided nearer the time.

Saturday

History Course:

Inside Out

Tutor: Diana Scott

Saturday 3rd December 10.30 to 12.30

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



This session will be an opportunity to think about a boundary-smashing form of transformative education bringing prisoners and 'outsiders' together as peers. An introduction to the Inside-Out programme and published reflective writing by its founding members (both inside and out), some insights from Durham University's work in HMP Frankland and HMP Low Newton, and an opportunity to experience a thought-provoking I-O style activity.

Science Course:

Music, Language, Syntax and Neurological Disorders

Tutor: Yukiko Kikuchi

Saturday 10th December 10.30 to 12.30

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Music and language are ubiquitous complex cognitive processes. In this lecture, we discuss the relations between music and language, and overview their cognitive and neural mechanisms that are fundamental for the processing of structured sounds and related neural disorders.