LITERATURE

The Life and Works of the Brontës
Sarah Anthony MA
6 weeks 4, 11, 18, 25 October; 1, 8 November
Fridays 10.30 – 12.30
Course code: 19TON403 Course fee: £93

This six week course looks at a selection of works by Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë in the context of their lives and the socio-political concerns at the time of their production.

The works of three sisters from an obscure Yorkshire parsonage have gained enduring popularity, partly because of their engagement with important contemporary concerns and partly because of a fascination with the mythology that has grown up regarding their lives.

We will begin with Jane Eyre and Villette by Charlotte Brontë, the most productive and arguably the best known of the sisters. We will then go on to look at a selection of poems by Emily Brontë, followed by Wuthering Heights, her only novel, considering a variety of film versions of the text to support our analysis. Anne Brontë is probably the least known of the sisters, often referred to dismissively as “the other one”. She is, however, the author of two powerful yet neglected texts: Agnes Grey and The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, and through a re-evaluation of those texts we will attempt to give her more of the recognition she undoubtedly deserves.

Our analysis of the texts will be supported by a selection of contemporary documents.

Required reading
Week 1: Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre, 1847
Week 2: Charlotte Brontë, Villette, 1853
Week 3: Emily Brontë, Selected poems (to be provided as a handout)
Week 4: Emily Brontë, Wuthering Heights, 1847
Week 5: Anne Brontë, Agnes Grey, 1847
Week 6: Anne Brontë, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, 1848
Additional information
This course allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment.

Intended learning outcomes
By the end of the course students will be able to:
engage with the works of the Brontë sisters in the context of their lives and experiences.
examine the selected texts in the light of their socio-historical context.
interpret literary texts in a critical way, illustrating arguments with carefully chosen examples.
demonstrate knowledge through the construction of critical arguments and present and defend those arguments.

About the tutor
Sarah Anthony studied for her Masters degree with the Open University specialising in postcolonial nineteenth century literature. For the last 12 years she has taught undergraduate students and adult learners in courses ranging from Shakespeare to the postmodern. She currently teaches for the University of Kent and the WEA.
Short Course Programme
General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- Online Booking is preferred. Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- By post to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course has been confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:

a) exclude any student if the student’s presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge
For details of our other courses, news, events and location visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge .

- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from www.tmbc.gov.uk . No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.

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