

LEEDS FUTURES – ENGLISH/HISTORY

Campus Day Programme – Tuesday 25th March

Please meet our Student Ambassadors outside the Parkinson Building (LS2 9JT) at 9:45.

9:45 – 10:15	Registration Parkinson Steps		
10:15 – 10:30	Welcome Charlène Gaubert Baines Wing SR (3.06)	Welcome Ellie Johnson Baines Wing SR (4.12)	
10:30 – 11:20	History 'Bad News Bradford?' An Oral History of Bradford in the 70-80s Hannah P Baines Wing SR (3.06)	English Literature Paranoiacs, Rednecks, Monomaniacs: Reflecting on the Populist Monsters of American Literature Dr Andrew Warnes Baines Wing SR (4.12)	
11:20 – 12:15	Campus tour	11:20 – 11:45	Campus tour
		11:45 – 12:30	Lunch Students' Union Refectory
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch Students' Union Refectory	12:30 – 13:00	Campus tour
13:00 – 13:50	English Language Language, Media, and the Courtroom: Unpacking the Depp v. Heard Trial Natalie J Worsley SR (9.58b)	English Literature Dismantling Legacies of Colonial Oppression in <i>A Small Place</i>: Reading a Postcolonial Context Nina M Worsley SR (9.58a)	History Disrupting the Historical Record: Reading Blackness in Diasporic Life Writing Eve W Worsley SR (9.53)
14:00 – 14:50	Philosophy taster Could AI Ever Be Free? On Defining What It Takes for Something to Be Free and Morally Responsible Jon H Worsley SR (9.58b)	Chinese taster Chinese Culture and Character Writing for Beginners Hongyi L Worsley SR (9.58a)	Linguistics taster Discover Linguistics: The Science of Language Dr Diane Nelson Worsley SR (9.53)
15:00 – 15:30	Student Ambassador Q&A Worsley Medical LT (7.35)		
15:30 – 16:00	Evaluations and goodbyes Worsley Medical LT (7.35)		

SEMINAR INFORMATION

ENGLISH

Paranoiacs, Rednecks, Monomaniacs: Reflecting on the Populist Monsters of American Literature, Dr Andrew Warnes

American literature has a long history of depicting populist ogres. These men of the people (and they are always men) display a recognisable mix of vulgarity, violence and paranoia. They often nurse lifelong grudges, obsessing to the point of "monomania" in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, and they often cultivate stupidity, defining themselves against intellectuals or celebrating the redness of their necks in Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men*. In this session we will look at some of American literature's most striking studies in political megalomania. Interactive close reading discussion and some examples from historical context will help us understand the roots of this tradition as well as the literature's equally long history of exposing it.

Dismantling Legacies of Colonial Oppression in *A Small Place*: Reading a Postcolonial Context, Nina M

This session practices close reading and critical analysis through a postcolonial lens. Students will be encouraged to reflect on the harmful legacy of British colonialism and consider how it is manifested in a local context. This session will break down key terminology where appropriate and apply these to an extract from the text, supported by group discussions and group activities.

Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place* is a piece of creative non-fiction, which will allow students to extend their existing skills by analysing a different form and style of literature.

This workshop seeks to expand the student's perception of what studying (English) Literature can offer, how they might consider texts which are more diverse in authorship and with the view of

Language, Media, and the Courtroom: Unpacking the Depp v. Heard Trial, Natalie J

Have you ever wondered how the media shapes our perception of high-profile trials, or how courtroom language influences a jury's decision? In this workshop, we'll dive into the language used in the Johnny Depp v. Amber Heard trial, one of the most publicised legal battles in recent history. Using newspaper headlines and courtroom transcripts, you'll analyse how language is used to represent social actors and influence audiences.

Through group activities, close readings, and class discussions, you'll explore how headlines can sway public opinion and the strategic use of language in courtroom opening statements to persuade juries.

This session will not only sharpen your critical analysis skills but also give you insight into how language is used to persuade, influence, and inform – skills that are valuable within media, journalism, the legal setting, academic writing, and beyond!

HISTORY

'Bad News Bradford'? An Oral History of Bradford in the 1970s and 1980s, Hannah P

Many conflicts and controversies occurred in Bradford in the 1970s and 1980s. It was a period of mass demographic changes, rising unemployment rates and economic turbulence, during which Bradford was home to the Yorkshire Ripper's mass murder spree. From the 1976 'battle of Bradford' clash with the National Front in Manningham to the tragic 1985 fire at Valley Parade, this period saw the image of 'bad news Bradford' prevail nationally - a reputation the city has struggled to shake off since.

This session will demonstrate how oral histories can be powerful historical sources. We will explore how oral histories can query our existing preconceptions and stereotypes to reveal alternative viewpoints of the past and, ultimately, counteract the 'doom and gloom' depiction of Bradford we are so often presented with.

Disrupting the Historical Record: Reading Blackness in Diasporic Life Writing, Eve W

The Black Diaspora refers to the dispersal of people of African descent across the globe. Beginning in the late-nineteenth century, Black people increasingly turned to life writing to (re)insert their experiences into the historical record.

This session aims to expose students to a different type of history which disrupts dominant historical narratives. It does so by introducing them to a range of written and visual sources which come from the life writing efforts of Black people from across the world during the twentieth century, including the UK, USA, and Brazil. In studying the experiences of various Black people from across the diaspora, students will have the opportunity to not only immerse themselves in a fun and interactive session on Black history as written by Black people, but also develop their skills as historians as they analyse sources, discuss source reliability, and contextualise histories of marginalised individuals within broader historical frameworks.

CHINESE

Chinese Culture and Character Writing for Beginners, Hongyi L

This workshop offers an exciting introduction to the Chinese language and culture, designed for students with no prior knowledge of Mandarin. Led by a skilled facilitator with expertise in conference interpreting and intercultural communication, the session combines engaging activities with fascinating insights.

Students will discover the unique pictorial origins of Chinese characters and practice writing them using specially designed worksheets. Through fun role-playing exercises, they'll also learn basic phrases for greetings and polite interactions. Additionally, the session explores traditional customs and festivals, such as the Chinese New Year, showcasing the diversity and richness of Chinese culture.

PHILOSOPHY

Could AI Ever Be Free? On Defining What It Takes for Something To Be Free and Morally Responsible, Jon H

This session explores the concept of free will and its role in moral responsibility. What does it mean for someone—or something—to act freely? And how does this connect to the way we judge actions as right or wrong?

With recent technological advancements, we often describe the behaviour of AI in ways similar to how we talk about human actions. But does this comparison hold up? We will consider whether advanced technologies like robotics could ever meet the criteria for acting freely, and what that would mean for how we morally judge them.

Here, we will also examine whether free will depends on an entity being conscious—and, if so, whether AI could ever meet this condition. Students will discuss different philosophical perspectives, such as dualism and materialism, and reflect on the implications of their views on the future of AI.

LINGUISTICS

Discover Linguistics: The Science of Language, Dr Diane Nelson and Dr Elliot Holmes

Why do we have different accents? How do we acquire language as babies? How does human language differ from animal communication systems? How do languages change and vary in their structures and sounds (and how are they similar)? How many languages are there in the world, and why are so many disappearing? These are some of the questions that Linguistics seeks to answer, using different scientific approaches. In this session we will explore what linguistics is, how speech can be analysed, and how speakers of languages like Finnish express things very differently from speakers of English.