

CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

SPRING PROGRAMME 2016

CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS SIXTH FORM
SANDALL ROAD
LONDON
NW5 2DB

CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

No exams.

No grades.

No measurement or quantification of either students or teachers.

Just interesting speakers and stimulating discussions.

- A masterclass is an extra-curricular lesson delivered by teachers from CSG or visiting experts in various fields.
- Each masterclass will either provide an introduction to a subject which is not taught at A Level – or explore a new aspect of a subject you are familiar with - taking you beyond the confines of the A Level syllabus.
- Most sessions should be accessible and of interest to students who study the subject in question, as well as those who do not. For example, it is to be hoped that a student who is studying sciences would still be interested in poetry and music, and a student of the arts would be interested in scientific questions.
- Hopefully attendance will encourage students to read further and perhaps inspire some to pursue a subject at university.
- Aim to arrive at S18 (Sixth Form Hall) soon after 3.35pm – usually there will be tea, coffee and biscuits – the session will begin just before 4pm and finish by 5pm (but watch out for occasional exceptions) **Please note different venues and start times on Wednesday 2nd and that on Monday 14th March there are two sessions taking place on the same afternoon.**

Also find us on Facebook: [CSG Masterclasses/History of Ideas](#) – click ‘like’ to get updates and reminders.

Unfortunately the original funding for our masterclass programme at CSG has run out – and, due to further government cuts to the funding of post-16 state education, it is with great regret that we have had to introduce a charge for attendance this year:

- For the sake of simplicity it is now £6 for a ‘season ticket’ to attend as many as you like in one term.
- Parents also welcome - £5 for one class or £15 for a one term ‘season ticket’
- Pay through Parent Pay
- **But don’t forget that attendance is free for students on bursaries or free school meals.**

We hope that you will find something of interest in these masterclasses - and that you enjoy them as much as we enjoy preparing and delivering them.

JON STUBBINGS

CSG MASTERCLASS PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR

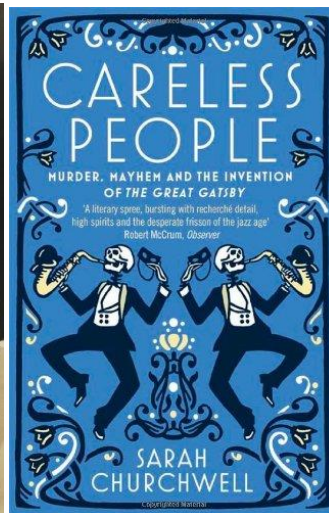
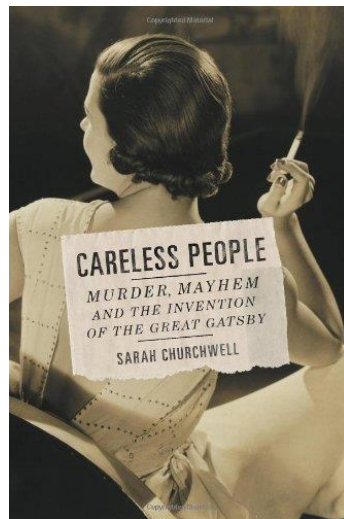
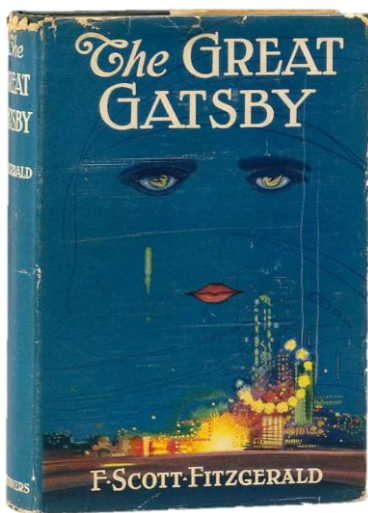
THE GREAT GATSBY AND AMERICAN LITERATURE

PROFESSOR SARAH CHURCHWELL

THURSDAY 25TH FEB 3.40PM

S18

Sarah Churchwell is a writer, broadcaster and academic; seen and heard regularly on TV and the radio as a cultural critic and as an expert on American literature. Her most recent book is *Careless People: Murder, Mayhem and the Invention of The Great Gatsby* – and in this masterclass, as in the critically acclaimed book, she will explore the historical background and context of F.Scott Fitzgerald’s masterpiece in the years of prohibition and jazz leading up to its publication in 1925. If there is time, Sarah will also discuss American literature in the period 1880-1940 more widely, touching upon issues such as the way in which literature is connected with the question of race and the Civil Rights movement in the USA.



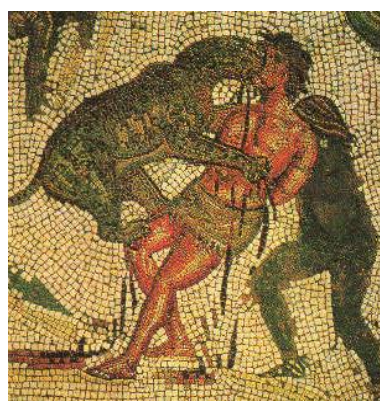
THE ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY

JON STUBBINGS

MONDAY 29TH FEB 3.40PM

S18

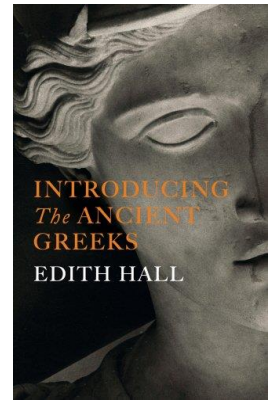
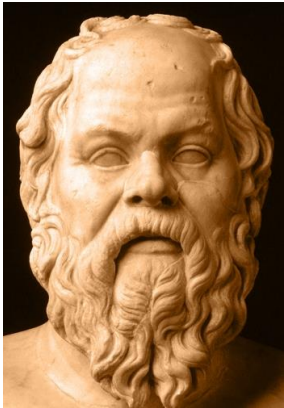
How did the beliefs of a tiny group of Middle Eastern Jewish religious fanatics develop into a global religion with over two billion followers? In the space of only 300 years the ‘Christians’, as they came to be known, went from being a persecuted sect within the Roman Empire to becoming the official religion of that same Empire and the persecutors of those who still wanted to worship the traditional Roman gods. This masterclass will attempt to trace that extraordinary story – from what we know of the life of Jesus – through the travels of the first apostles and the formation of the first ‘Christian’ communities – the first persecutions by Nero – the writing of the ‘gospels’ and the gradual formation of what we now call the *New Testament* – to the historic role of the Emperor Constantine leading to the adoption of Christianity as the official state church of the Roman Empire in 380 – at which point the Christians themselves started to become the persecutors.



WHY THE GREEKS MATTER

PROFESSOR EDITH HALL WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH 4.30PM ROOM 35

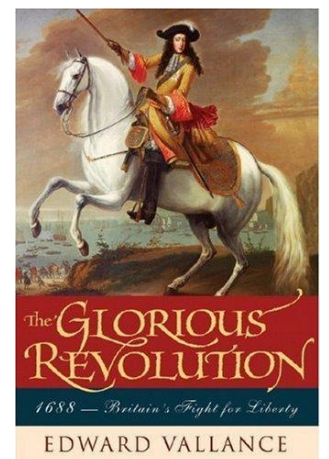
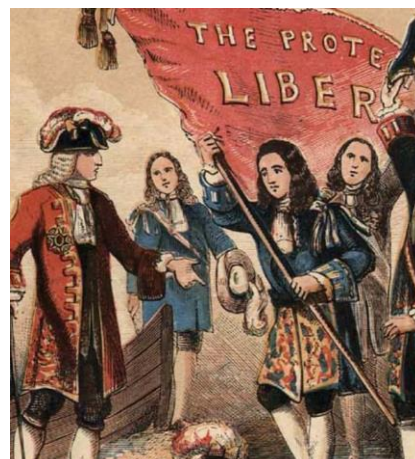
Edith Hall is a distinguished Classics Professor from King's College London, writer of several popular books on the Ancient world such as *Introducing the Ancient Greeks*, and a frequent contributor to TV documentaries on BBC4, Channel 4, Discovery, and National Geographic. In this masterclass she will consider how Ancient Greek lifestyle, literature and thought is still relevant today, and will show that, while the Ancient Greeks may seem distant from us in time, their way of thinking could in fact be thought of as a parallel to our own. This talk is open to everyone - no previous knowledge of Ancient Greek or Classics required!



THE 'GLORIOUS' REVOLUTION OF 1688

PROFESSOR TED VALLANCE THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 3.40PM S18

The Glorious Revolution of 1688 had a dramatic impact on the political framework of the United Kingdom. As well as overthrowing the Catholic James II, the event saw the establishment of a constitutional monarchy, led to the development of political parties and affected British standing abroad. The significance and symbolism of the event has been debated since the end of the 17th Century and has been claimed by those from all areas of the political spectrum. By looking at the ways the Glorious Revolution has been viewed by historians, Professor Ted Vallance will help students get to grips with exactly how 'glorious' the event actually was and why it matters in the 21st Century.



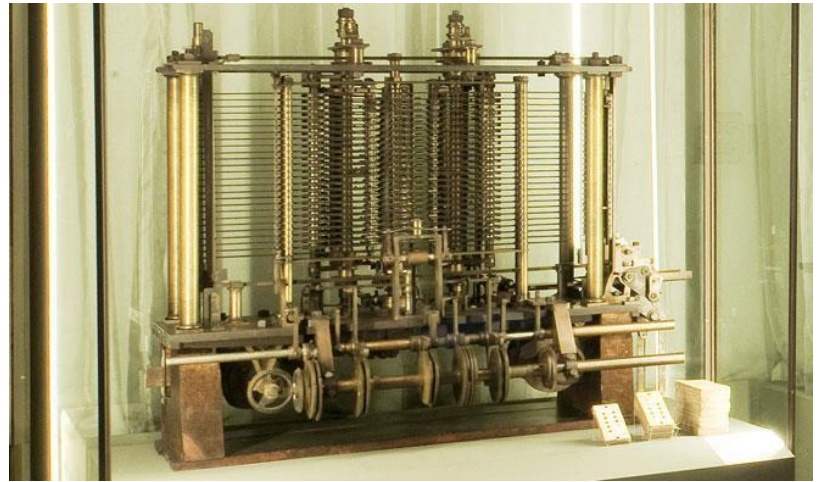
ADA LOVELACE – ENCHANTRESS OF NUMBER

TILLY BLYTH

MONDAY 7TH MARCH 3.40PM

S18

Ada Lovelace, a Victorian pioneer of the computer age, is currently the subject of an exhibition at the Science Museum which celebrates the bicentenary of her birth. Called the 'Enchantress of number' by Charles Babbage, Lovelace was the daughter of the infamous poet Lord Byron and the admired intellect Annabella Milbanke. She studied science and maths at a time when women rarely had access to such subjects and collaborated with Babbage on his calculating machines. Lovelace is now celebrated for identifying the machines' potential to manipulate symbols rather than just numbers, foreshadowing modern computing a century in advance. In this masterclass Tilly Blyth, who is the Keeper of Technologies and Engineering at the Science Museum, will give an introduction to Lovelace's fascinating life and work.



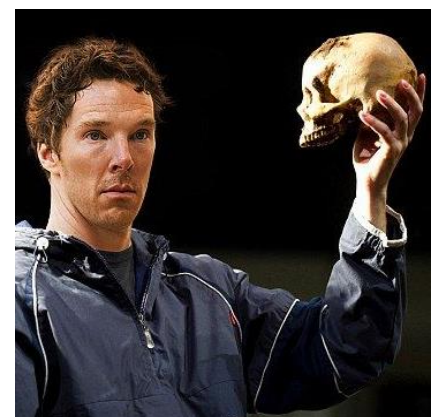
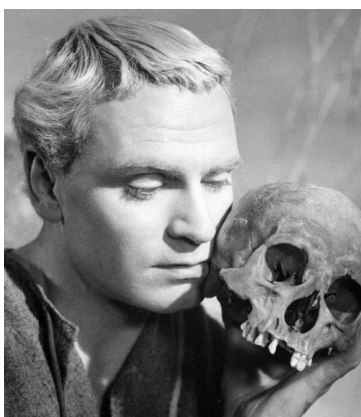
HAMLET – THE PLAY'S THE THING

LYNDSEY TURNER

THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 3.40PM

S18

Lyndsey Turner has, in a very short space of time, become one of British theatre's most talked-about and respected directors. Her critically acclaimed successes include *Posh*, *Chimerica*, and, recently, *Hamlet* at the Barbican Theatre, starring Benedict Cumberbatch. In this masterclass she will explore aspects of what is arguably Shakespeare's most powerful, often quoted and culturally significant play – with a particular focus on issues relating to the play in performance. This will be an essential masterclass for those who are studying *Hamlet* as part of their English Literature course, but will also be fascinating for those who are not.



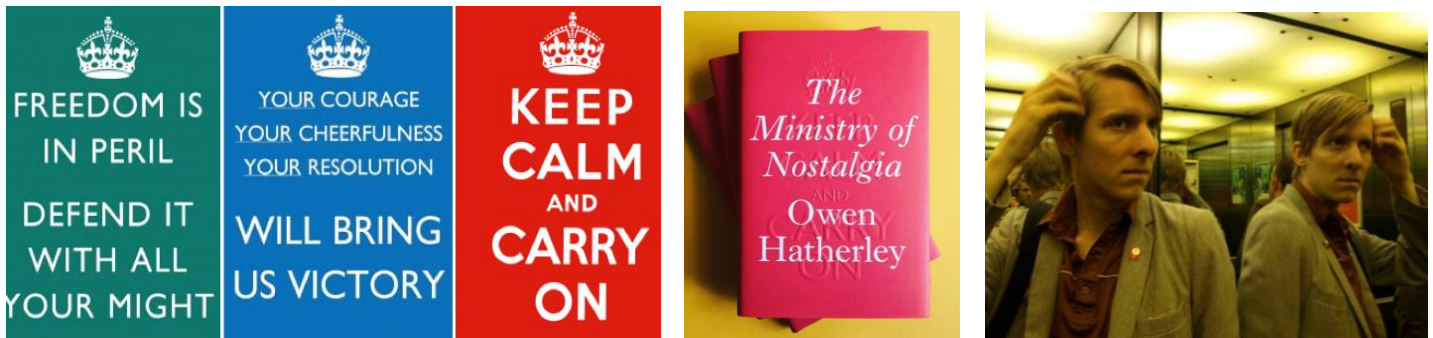
AUSTERITY NOSTALGIA

OWEN HATHERLEY

MONDAY 14TH MARCH 3.40PM

S18

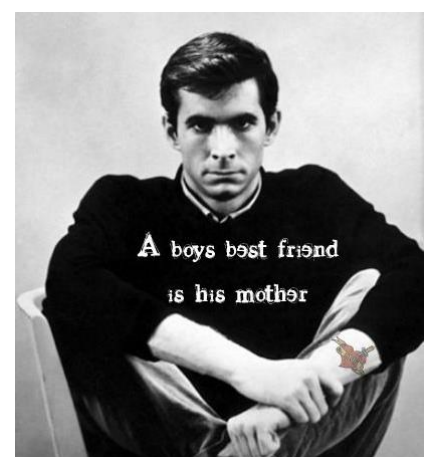
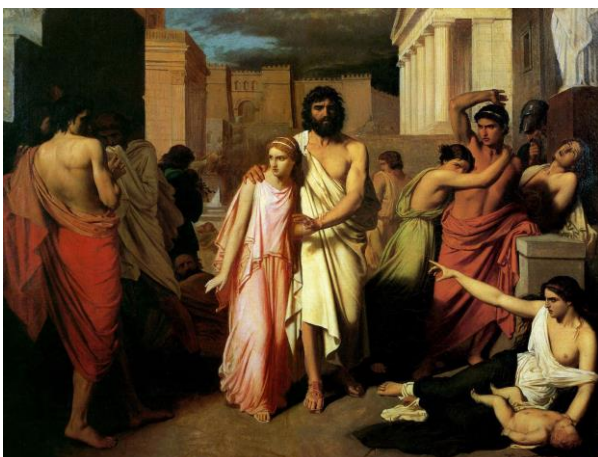
Owen Hatherley – the firebrand of architecture and design criticism – is the author of several books infused with caustic observation and sharp political engagement. In his latest book *The Ministry of Nostalgia* Hatherley shows how our past is being resold in order to defend the indefensible. From the marketing of a 'make do and mend' aesthetic to the growing nostalgia for a utopian past that never existed, a cultural distraction scam prevents people grasping the truth of their condition. In this masterclass he will explode the creation of a false history: a rewriting of the austerity of the 1940s and 1950s, which saw the development of a welfare state while the nation crawled out of the devastations of war. This period has been recast to explain and offer consolation for the violence of neoliberalism, an ideology dedicated to the privatisation of our common wealth. Hatherley issues a passionate challenge to the injunction to keep calm and carry on.



OEDIPUS AFTER FREUD

PROFESSOR FIONA MACINTOSH MONDAY 14TH MARCH 4.30PM ROOM 35

In this masterclass Fiona Macintosh will be discussing the mythic figure of Oedipus - who unwittingly usurped his father and married his mother - and how this unlikely hero has been reinterpreted in the light of modern psychological thinking. Drawing on Freud's seminal work, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, in which he laid out his notion of the Oedipus Complex, the figure or metaphor of Oedipus has been reincarnated repeatedly over the last century. Fiona Macintosh is Professor of Classical Reception and Director of the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama at Oxford University, and has also held a lectureship in the English Department at Goldsmiths'.



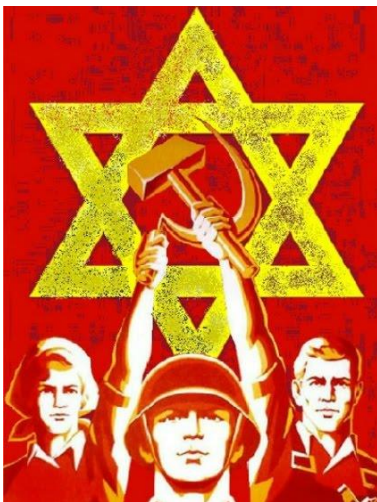
THE LEFT AND THE JEWS

ALAN JOHNSON

THURSDAY 17TH MARCH 3.40PM

S18

The relationship between Jews and the left has long been a source of controversy and, sometimes, acrimony. Historically many prominent socialists and Marxists were of Jewish heritage, and, although there were undeniably anti-Semitic currents in left wing thought, the fight against Fascism and celebrated events such as the 'Battle of Cable Street' allowed many on the left to tell themselves that anti-Semitism was an exclusively right wing problem. In recent years the almost universal adoption by the left of the Palestinian cause and criticism (some argue the 'demonization') of Israel has provided one set of recurrent contentious issues. There has also been division over whether some parts of the left are prepared to tolerate rather than condemn antisemitism and, conversely, whether Jews engage sufficiently with campaigns against other racisms. Most recently, Jeremy Corbyn's successful campaign to become leader of the Labour Party, and opposition to that campaign, appears to have driven relations between British Jews and the Labour Party to a new low point. Alan Johnson will give a brief survey of this historical relationship and explore some of the present day issues.



FROM BARCODES TO SPACE PROBES

PROFESSOR SARAH HART

MONDAY 21ST MARCH 3.40PM

S18

Sending information accurately is important in many situations. We wouldn't want one wrong digit when someone enters credit card details to result in the wrong person being charged. There are mathematical tricks that allow us to design "error detecting codes" that will detect transmission errors like these and prevent someone accidentally racking up bills on your account. Maths can also help us with the harder problem of "error correcting codes" – these are useful when receiving messages from distant space probes and, more prosaically, in mobile phone communications. In this masterclass Sarah Hart, Professor of Mathematics at Birkbeck College, will give a brief tour of some of the ways mathematics can help us to solve these problems.



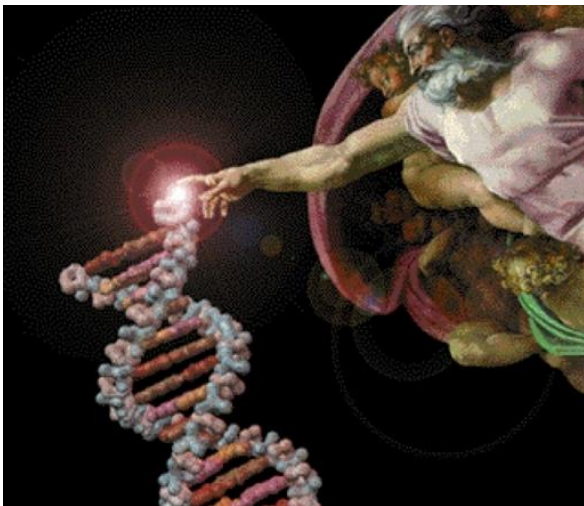
INTELLIGENT DESIGN? IS THERE 'SCIENTIFIC' EVIDENCE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD?

COLIN WATTS

TUESDAY 22ND MARCH 3.40PM

S18

The 13th century philosopher St Thomas Aquinas argued that evidence exists for the operation in nature of divine intelligence. Most philosophers believe that David Hume in his 1779 Dialogues concerning Natural Religion decisively refuted Aquinas's claim, whilst biologists tend to think that Darwin delivered the coup de grace in 1859. However, recent discoveries in the physiology and anatomy of cells caused a long-time opponent of Intelligent Design Theory, philosopher Antony Flew, to adopt the view that the evidence now points incontrovertibly towards Aquinas being correct after all. Richard Dawkins forcefully objects, but is he right to do so? Come to this master-class, find out what the new discoveries are and decide for yourself what, if anything, they prove.



Contact: jstubbings@camdengirls.camden.sch.uk for further information or to sign up for any of the sessions.



CSG Masterclasses/History of Ideas

– sign up to receive updates and announcements.