

St Clare's Seminar Series

Since its inception in 2000, the St Clare's Seminar Series has provided an opportunity for students to explore a stimulating range of issues and ideas. Each semester the series is linked by a common theme. Themes in previous years have included 'Culture and Power', 'Women and Men', 'Isms and Schisms', 'War and Peace', 'Virtual Realities and Fictional Worlds', and 'Utopias and Dystopias'.

Autumn Semester 2017 Revolution and Independence



This year marks the centenary of the Russian Revolution (1917), and the quincentenary of Martin Luther's Protestant Reformation (1517). As Karl Marx once observed, 'Revolutions are the locomotives of history', but what are the human consequences of such rapid historical change? Are all political and cultural revolutions inevitable? Does real change evolve more gradually? Do revolutions bring independence of thought and action, or are they invariably destined to end in compromise or failure? This interdisciplinary series will explore these questions from a variety of critical and theoretical perspectives.

Autumn Semester 2017

Revolution and Independence

*All talks will be held in the dining hall of the Bardwell Road Campus
on Wednesday evening at 5.00pm*

*Note: due to a scheduling clash, the first talk will be held on
Thursday 14 September at 5.00pm*

Thursday 14 September

Nation and Narration: Literature, Revolution and Myth
Dr Keith Hopper, Kellogg College, Oxford

Wednesday 20 September

Virtual Artists: Revolutions in Gaming
Sam Browne, Games Developer, Three Knots Games Studio, London

Wednesday 27 September

The Reagan Revolution: Fact or Fiction?
Dr Karen Heath, Rothermere American Institute, Oxford

Wednesday 4 October

The Arab Spring: When is a Revolution not a Revolution?
Alex Donnelly, St John's College, Oxford

Wednesday 11 October

John Milton and the English Revolution
Andy Rattue, Principal, St Clare's College, Oxford

Wednesday 18 October

Has the Left got a Future?
Donal McCay, Chair of the North Oxford Labour Party

Wednesday 1 November

The First English Revolution: de Montfort and the Barons' War, 1258-1267
Paul Sinclair, St Clare's College, Oxford

Wednesday 8 November

The Revolution and the Evolution of Psychotherapy
Niamh Moriarty, Psychotherapist (UKCP reg.), Oxford

Wednesday 15 November

'Few are made for independence': Nietzsche's Free Spirit and Self-overcoming
Dr Magnus Moar, Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education

Requirements for Credit for the Seminar Series

1. Attend every seminar. Please ensure that you sign the attendance sheet. If you have not signed in or have missed a seminar, you will need to speak with the convenor, Keith Hopper.
2. Keep a journal in which you record your thoughts about each of the nine seminars. Include in your journal entries a summary of the content of each seminar and your own personal reflections on each topic discussed. The journal must be handed in no later than Wednesday 22 November 2017.
3. Write a 3,500-4,000 word paper, addressing some aspect of the theme of this seminar series, i.e. 'Revolution and Independence'. Your paper topic must be approved by the convenor before submittal. The deadline is Wednesday 22 November 2017.
4. You will need to pass an oral examination in which your paper and journal will be discussed. You will be required to answer questions relating to your essay. The oral examination will take place on Wednesday 29 November 2017.