



Leisure Learning at the Institute

READING ROOM & LIBRARY
CAFÉ
COURSES
TALKS
DAY TRIPS
& MORE

WINTER
2025

Based in the heart of Nottingham

The Nottingham Mechanics Institute has been educating and improving the social wellbeing of the people of Nottingham for 187 years.

Looking to the future

In 2024 The Institute decided to start a series of Leisure Learning courses, run by professional tutors, with the aim of learning and enjoying the topics with old friends and new. The courses were well received and using feedback from several areas we have added new tutors for the courses in 2025.

The institute welcomes input from visitors on courses they would like to see in the future.

Please have a look around our site if you're stuck on anything

Give us a ring on 01159417353
or email us from our contact page

Better still pop in and have a chat in person we are here to help.



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ENROLMENT DATE

From Monday 25th November

Booking a course

Please fill in an enquiry form online, visit us, or
phone us on 01159417353.

We will start taking bookings from the 18th
November

To see all our courses and other information,
please visit

www.nottmleisurelearning.com

If you wish to pay by cheque, please make cheques
payable to New Mechanics Ltd
with your name and chosen course details included
on the reverse.

In person: Nottingham Mechanics Institute
3 North Sherwood St NG1 4EZ

Bookings taken

Mon-Fri, 8.30 AM-2.30 PM

Terms & Conditions for course and event booking, which include our policy on cancellations and refunds are available on our website. Please ask at Reception if you require a paper copy.

Leisure Learning at the Institute

DAY PROGRAMME

History

Some Famous Medieval Kings & Queens of Britain

Thursdays 10.30-12.30

Starts 16th January

(Dr Mark Barnard)

7-week course £59.50

Explore the captivating and often overlooked history of
Early Britain.

Discover the stories of remarkable rulers like Alfred the
Great, King Canute, and William the Conqueror, who
played pivotal roles in shaping the nation.

Uncover the legacy of Gruffydd ap Llywelyn, Welsh
counterpart to Alfred, and learn about the Dane who once
ruled all of England. Join us on this journey through time
to understand how these influential figures have left their
mark on a rich history.

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Leisure Learning at the Institute

DAY PROGRAMME History

Georgian Nottinghamshire

Country Houses, China Tea and Dancing the Quadrille!

Thursdays 10.30-12.30pm

Starts 30th January

(Chris Weir)

5-week course £42.50

Explore the impact of the Georgian period on the landscape and culture of Nottinghamshire. Discover how the 18th Century 'garden town' of Nottingham was transformed into an industrial hub, how country houses sprang up all over the country and how the gentry and merchant classes discovered leisure. They drank tea, danced the quadrille, and occasionally journeyed to spas and seaside resorts. But there was another Georgian Nottinghamshire that was rooted in restrictive Poor Law settlement laws, seasonal farm work, crime, and the miseries of child labour. These five sessions will reveal these themes using archive sources, printed books, and images of the period.



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DAY PROGRAMME

History

Highway Men, Cutthroats and Pirates

Wednesdays 10.30-12.30

Starts 19th February

(Bob Massey)

4 week course £34.00

During the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries, lawless men and women carved out a notorious reputation as they roamed both the land and the high seas. These individuals, often driven by desperation or a thirst for adventure, became infamous for their daring exploits, engaging in piracy, smuggling, and various forms of rebellion against authority. Figures who captured the imagination of the public, embodying the spirit of freedom and defiance. Their stories reflect a tumultuous era marked by conflict and the pursuit of fortune, leaving a legacy that continues to fascinate us today.



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DAY PROGRAMME

History

History of the Moving Image

Wednesdays 2-4pm

Starts 19th February

(Bob Massey)

4-week course £34.00

Join us as we explore the fascinating history of the moving image. From the invention of optical toys to the emergence of talking pictures, this journey highlights the groundbreaking achievements of early film. Discover how these innovations transformed storytelling and laid the foundation for the vibrant film industry we know today. Let's celebrate the magic of cinema together!

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DAY PROGRAMME

History

More Brushstrokes of History

2025 New Course

Tuesdays 10.15-12.15

Starts 21st January

25th February is a Holiday

(David Price)

9 week course £76.50

"A look at paintings that depict important historical events or simply reveal fascinating aspects of contemporary society. This is a history course rather than an art history course, but art is very much at its centre. We will look at the Dutch "Golden Age" centred on Amsterdam and the great works of Rembrandt and other artists working there. We will also examine Renaissance Italy, the driving forces behind it, the rivalries and even wars between city states, and the paintings of Botticelli, Leonardo, Raphael, Michelangelo, Titian, and others who flourished as artists at this time. We'll also cover American art from 1850 to 1950, a period during which the United States moved on from the devastating Civil War, when it was still largely a rural country, to being an industrial giant with a predominantly urbanised population."



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DAY PROGRAMME

History

Social History and Satire in Musicals

Wednesdays 10.15–12.15

Starts 22nd January

26th February is a Holiday

(David Price)

10 week course £85.00

"This history course is based on some of the best-known musicals and operettas. Writers of these works often dealt with complex social, political, and historical issues while providing an entertaining show with great songs. Show Boat, described as the first true musical, is set in segregation in the southern states of America after the abolition of slavery; racial tensions also feature in West Side Story and South Pacific, two of the musicals that represented a major change in the style of musicals in post-Second World War America. The politics and society of Paris in the 19th century form the background to Les Misérables, and other musicals and operettas have also focused on Paris. Also covered in the course is the strange censorship of the Hollywood Production Code and how it affected musicals. With slides and musical excerpts."



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DAY PROGRAMME

History

The Crusades - God's War

Mondays 1-3pm

Starts 24th February

(David Halliwell)

7 week course £59.50

This Course will aim to get you to gain an appreciation of the significance of the 'Crusades', their enduring legacy and to demonstrate the complexity of relationships between co-religionists, both Christian and Muslim. It will consider the origins of the crusades, the role of the papacy in forging a new interest in the Holy Land and the Muslim Jihadi response. You will consider how Christians and Muslims perceived each other and how war was waged between them. The events of the first three Crusades will be examined in relation to key figures, success or failure and changing interpretations and attitudes. The role of the military orders, such as Templars and Hospitallers, will also be studied and will question how their rise challenged attitudes towards orthodoxy and stimulated the popular imagination. Finally consideration will also be given to whether what we think today about the crusades and do they really matter: from Walter Scott to Ridley Scott.



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DAY PROGRAMME

Film & Theatre

Film Studies

Alfred Hitchcock: His Life, Movies and Influence

Thursdays 1.00 –4.00pm

Starts 30th January

20th February is a holiday

(Anita Fernandez)

5-week course £62.50

Welcome to our cinema course!

A Five-week Course, Setting the films of Alfred Hitchcock in the context of his life, the political and cultural landscape in which he operated, and the influence he had on other filmmakers.

Films include some of his best masterpieces like Frenzy & Shadow of a doubt.

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DAY PROGRAMME

Film & Theatre

Film Studies

Music & Film: The Role of Music in The Soundtrack

Thursdays 1.00-4.00pm

Starts 13th March

(Anita Fernandez)

5-week course £62.50

Welcome to our cinema course! Get ready to explore the role music plays in setting a scene, in delivering the emotional content, and holding the Film together. A mix of classical, folk, country, specially written and curated Soundtracks will be presented.

Come and join us for 5 weeks of film fun with some full showings of films and some others just as clips.

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DAY PROGRAMME Literature

Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*

Wednesdays 10.30-12.30 pm

Starts 29th January

February 19th is a holiday

(Judith Hedley)

7-week course £59.50

It's been the inspiration for countless sequels, parodies and spin-offs, but there's nothing like 'Pride and Prejudice'. Jane Austen's much loved novel features not only characters like the Bennet Sisters, Mr Darcy and Lady Catherine Burgh but a wealth of social history waiting to be explored.

Whether this a book you've enjoyed many times, the inspiration for wonderful viewing on film or TV, or just a title that you've always meant to get around to reading, you'll find studying 'Pride and Prejudice' in the company of like-minded Leisure Learners a great way to spend the first months of 2025. We'll be looking at the novel through it's issues and occasions, from 'Dancing and Dining' through 'Judging and Misjudging' through to the happy ending with it's multiple marriages.



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DAY PROGRAMME

Literature

Poetry: A 20th Century Menu

Wednesdays 1.30-3.00pm

Starts 29th January

19th February is a Holiday

(Judith Hedley)

7 week course £59.50

Thomas Hardy, WB Yeats, Sylvia Plath, Dylan Thomas? Or into the twenty-first century with Seamus Heaney, Carol Ann Duffy, or Simon Armitage? This course gives you a chance to study some of your favourite poets writing since 1900, everyone from Wendy Cope, DH Lawrence and U A Fanthorpe to Brian Bilston.

These poets and more will be on the menu for you to choose during our first session, when a popular vote will help us draw up a seven-week programme.

Read and explore your favourite poems with a friendly group of Leisure Learners -or discover someone completely new to you.

So that the tutor is able to prepare, for the first session we shall take a look at poems by a man who is a controversial figure, but a perennial twentieth-century favourite, Philip Larkin. After that, the choice is yours!

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Leisure Learning at the Institute DAY PROGRAMME Literature

Two Great Mystery Writers
Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie

Tuesdays 10.30-12.30pm

Starts 14th January

(Dr John Florence)

4 week course £34.00

Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie remain two of the most celebrated and popular writers of detective fiction. Doyle creating Sherlock Holmes and Christie Hercule Poirot and Jane Marple. Conan Doyle died at a time when Christie had become perhaps the best-selling crime writer in the language. Conan Doyle knew Christie's work and Christie was heavily influenced by Conan Doyle. This is one of the many interesting topics we shall consider during the course. This should prove an enjoyable course for fans of crime fiction and those who know little about the subject.



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DAY PROGRAMME

Literature

George Orwell's Essays

Tuesdays 1.30-3.30pm

Starts 14th January.

(Dr John Florence)

5-week course £42.50

George Orwell is frequently called one of the best English essayists. His essays are provocative, thought provoking and raise subjects and issues which remain as relevant as when they were first published.

All of the essays we will discuss are to be found in George Orwell, Selected Essays in the Oxford World's Classic Series and it would be helpful if you equip yourself with a copy beforehand. This one contains all the texts we will discuss; however, copies of the essays will be provided on a weekly basis.



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Leisure Learning at the Institute DAY PROGRAMME

Music

Concerts in Depth
Mondays 10.15–12.15pm
Starts 13th January
17th February is a Holiday
(Mike Wheeler)
10 week course £85.00

Come along on a thrilling journey into the realm of concerts! Buckle up for a wild ride through the evolution of live music shows and the cutting-edge innovations in concert wizardry.

Brace yourself to uncover the enchantment of live tunes and the mind-blowing adventures that only a concert can deliver. 🎵🌟



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DAY PROGRAMME RISKONOMICS

Introduction to Economics of Everyday Life

Thursdays 10:30-12.30pm

Starts 30th January

20th February is a holiday

(Anita Fernandez)

6-week course

£51.00

What is economics for and why do we study it? How does supply and demand work? How do the markets work and react to situations? Does consumer choice matter? Can I Live Well? Taxation and Wealth? How do poverty, taxation, and wealth impact the economy and what does the data teach us, both macro and micro? How do we cope with fluctuations and financial crises?

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DAY PROGRAMME Languages & Culture

Japanese Culture & Life

Fridays 10:30-12pm

Starts 31st January

21st February is a Holiday

(Takae Gale)

6-week course £51.00

Discover the fascinating world of Japanese culture and language with Takae. From learning basic Japanese phrases, writing (calligraphy), and origami to learning all about the culture, including Japanese tea ceremonies and kimono design. Interested in Japanese culture? Then this is the course for you.



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DAY PROGRAMME

Philosophy

Mondays

Starts 20th January

17th February is a Holiday

(Bettina Lange)

2.30-4.30pm

8 week course £68.00

Do you want to think more clearly? And express your thoughts in a more logical, persuasive manner? Clear thinking and expression can be learnt, and Philosophy offers helpful skills and reflections. The course is an opportunity to appreciate and enhance your skills in logical thinking and clear expression. Knowledge of Philosophy is not expected, just a willingness to reflect on your thinking and explore different ways of expressing your thoughts - and to learn from others including some philosophers.

Some of the aspects covered include the following:

- How to spot logical and not so logical conclusions
- Some philosophical puzzles and paradoxes
- Different thinking styles - from instant judgement to careful evaluation and what they are useful for and not so useful for.
- Examples of thinking: a 'thinking' person, an 'unthinking' response, or a 'thoughtful' approach.

The teaching and learning style will be a mix of explanations provided by the tutor and you 'doing Philosophy'.



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Nottingham Mechanics Institute

Members Interest Groups

- Small Informal Groups for you to come along and join in: (small charges applicable on some clubs)
- Film Afternoon: Mondays 1.30 pm
- Gardening Club: Tuesdays Fortnightly 10.00-12.00 (George Hallam)
- Stitch Club: Mondays Fortnightly 1.30-3.30 pm (Clare Orger)
- Games Afternoon: Tuesdays 1.00-3.30 pm
- Music Opera Events with Robert: Fortnightly 10.30 am
- Short Mat Bowls: Thursdays 1.30 pm
- Table Tennis: Fridays 1.30 pm
- Curtius Salon Talks: Fridays 11 am

These are members groups. Please see Wes or Ruth regarding this or membership to Nottingham Mechanics Institute.

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SPECIAL DAY TALKS
GUIDED WALKS
NEW COURSES
VARIOUS TRIPS

SPRING/
SUMMER
2025



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