



CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

SPRING 2018 PROGRAMME



CSG SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

No exams.

No grades.

Just interesting speakers and stimulating discussions.

- Masterclasses are extra-curricular lessons 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. We hope 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 S5 (Sixth Form Hall) soon after 3.30pm – usually there will be tea, coffee and biscuits – the session will begin at about 3.40pm and finish by 5pm at the latest - **but watch out for occasional exceptions.**



CSG Masterclasses/History of Ideas

– sign up to receive updates and announcements.

Unfortunately, due to severe and ongoing government cuts to the funding of state education since 2010 (and particularly of post-16 state education), it is with regret that we feel we have to make a charge for certain extra-curricular opportunities such as these.

- **Attendance is free for students on bursaries or free school meals.**
- For students who are not on free school meals or a bursary the cost is £10 for a ‘season ticket’ to attend as many masterclasses as you like in one term – so if you come to all 10 that is just £1 per session!
- Parents are also welcome - £5 for one masterclass
- All parents/guardians of students at the school will be sent an invitation to pay through parentpay by email.

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

Monday 26th February - 3.35pm - S5

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH BENJAMIN MARKOVITS

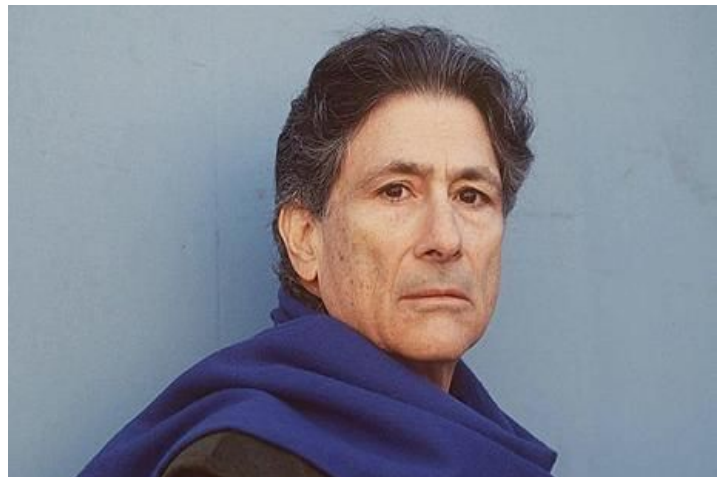


Benjamin Markovits left behind an unpromising (his own word) career as a professional basketball player to become a writer and English teacher. He is now a novelist and professor of Creative Writing at Royal Holloway University of London. His most recent novel, *You Don't Have To Live Like This* is published by Faber. In this masterclass we will look at the decisions that writers take - through examples of both prose and poetry - and discuss how these ideas could be applied to our own writing.

Thursday 1st March - 3.35pm - S5

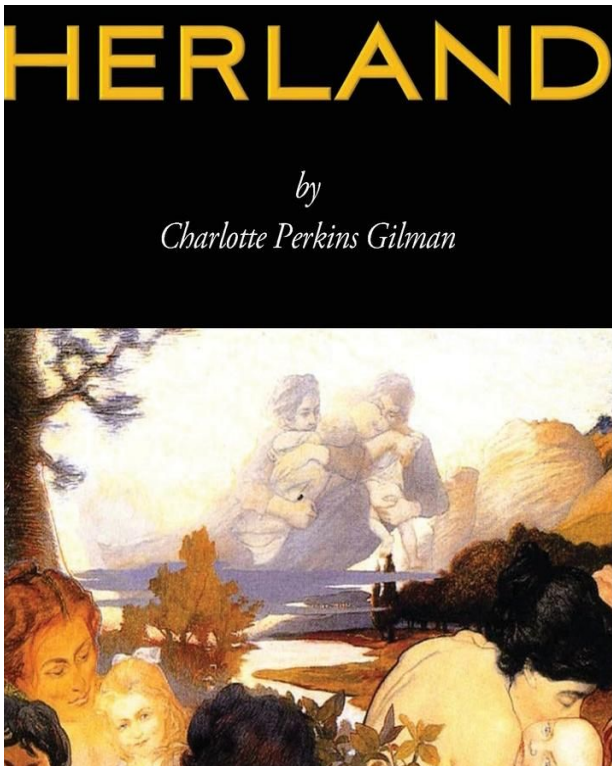
EDWARD SAID AND 'ORIENTALISM' WITH JON STUBBINGS

In 1978 the Palestinian-American academic Edward W. Said published the seminal work of 'Post-colonial' studies – *Orientalism* – in which he set out to show the existence of subtle and persistent Eurocentric prejudice against Arab–Islamic peoples and their culture, identifying a long tradition of both romanticized and hostile images of Asia and the Middle East which have functioned as implicit justifications for the colonialism of the European powers and, more recently, the U.S. Said's theory of 'Orientalism' can be applied to the academic study of 'Eastern' languages and religions, as well as to 'Western' representations of the 'East' in literature, art and music. This masterclass will aim to



explore these ideas from their origins up to
the present day.

Monday 5th March - 3.35pm - S5



FEMINIST UTOPIAS WITH MARGARET HEFFERNAN

Unhappiness involves conflict, which is dramatic and exciting, while happiness is hard to describe and perhaps impossible to make interesting at length. So we have a lot more dystopias than utopias - and even utopian writing is (from Thomas More onwards) about failure rather than achievement. This is rather a shame as it tends to mean that humourless pessimism is more pervasive than humour and optimism. But might that also be because most dystopias are written by men? Do women have a different perspective? In this talk, entrepreneur, CEO, TED speaker and author Margaret Heffernan will be talking about the utopian writing of Mary Wollstonecraft, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Shulamith Firestone and their contribution to our ideas of utopia.

Thursday 8th March - 3.35pm - S5

WHY BREXIT? WHY TRUMP? WHAT HOPE? WITH ROBERT PESTON

Why did people vote for Brexit and Trump? Are we witnessing the death of 'progress'? Are young people and future generations destined to live in a poorer and more unequal world? In this masterclass the renowned broadcaster and political journalist Robert Peston will offer his personal analysis of our current situation - and suggest some ways in which we might avoid the slide towards a dystopian future.



Monday 12th March - 3.35pm - S5



SOCIAL CHANGE DURING THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS 1625-1642

WITH JONATHAN HEALEY

The Civil Wars are usually seen as high political events, caused by a failure of government. But in the lead up to their outbreak, England saw dramatic and difficult social change which placed the whole structure of the country under pressure. This talk asks an old question anew: did the Civil War have social causes?

Thursday 15th March - 3.35pm - S5

CAN YOU BE BOTH A LIBERAL AND A ZIONIST? WITH JONATHAN FREEDLAND

In recent years it has become a widely held assumption that to be a Zionist is to be politically on the right; a supporter of ultra-nationalist policies that include the occupation and oppression of Palestinians - and that, therefore, no true liberal could ever call themselves a Zionist. But is that correct, and has it always been this way? Are there assumptions about the meaning and legitimacy of Zionism that we're getting wrong? Guardian columnist and author Jonathan Freedland, who's reported and written on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict for nearly three decades, tries to pick his way through the minefield.



Monday 19th March - 3.35pm - S5

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT CHARLES DICKENS? WITH JOHN MULLAN

Dickens is often deplored for his sentimentality, condemned for his representations of women, or dismissed for his love of caricature. So why does he live on in the popular imagination? In this masterclass Professor John Mullan, Head of English at University College London, will show how brilliant and audacious a novelist he was - and how he foresaw some of the narrative experiment of later writers.



Wednesday 21st March - 3pm (note time) - S5

JUDAISM AND ANCIENT ROME WITH CAROLINE BARRON

It was perhaps the world's first multicultural metropolis, being home to as many as one million people from across the Empire and beyond. But how did the pagan, polytheistic Romans interact with the monotheism of their eastern provinces? And what did the Jewish peoples make of their Roman overlords? How did Roman imperialism challenge Judaism on a political-religious level, and how did the Jewish encounter with (the pre-Christian) Rome contribute to shaping Judaism itself? Dr Caroline Barron will explore these questions, drawing on Roman, Jewish, Greek, Egyptian and Christian sources - including literary texts, architecture, sculpture and other artefacts.



Thursday 22nd March - 3.35pm - S5

SIR JOHN SOANE – A VERY MODERN MAN WITH RHIANNON LITTERICK

Sir John Soane is arguably one of Britain's most famous architects. Known as “the architect of light”, Soane was an innovator, creator and prolific collector in 18th and 19th century London. He designed iconic buildings such as the Bank of England and Dulwich Picture Gallery, and left his house museum to the nation. In this talk, join Rhiannon Litterick from Sir John Soane's Museum to explore the man behind the museum, and discuss how typical Soane was of his time.



Monday 26th March - 3.35pm - S5

BIOINFORMATICS AND THE FUTURE WITH NEELU BEGUM

In this masterclass Neelu Begum will talk about Experimental biology through her experience of working as a scientist in the civil service and as a research assistant at UCL. She will also talk about current developments in Computational biology - the analysis of data, the modelling of *Candida* species and testing in mice and patients.

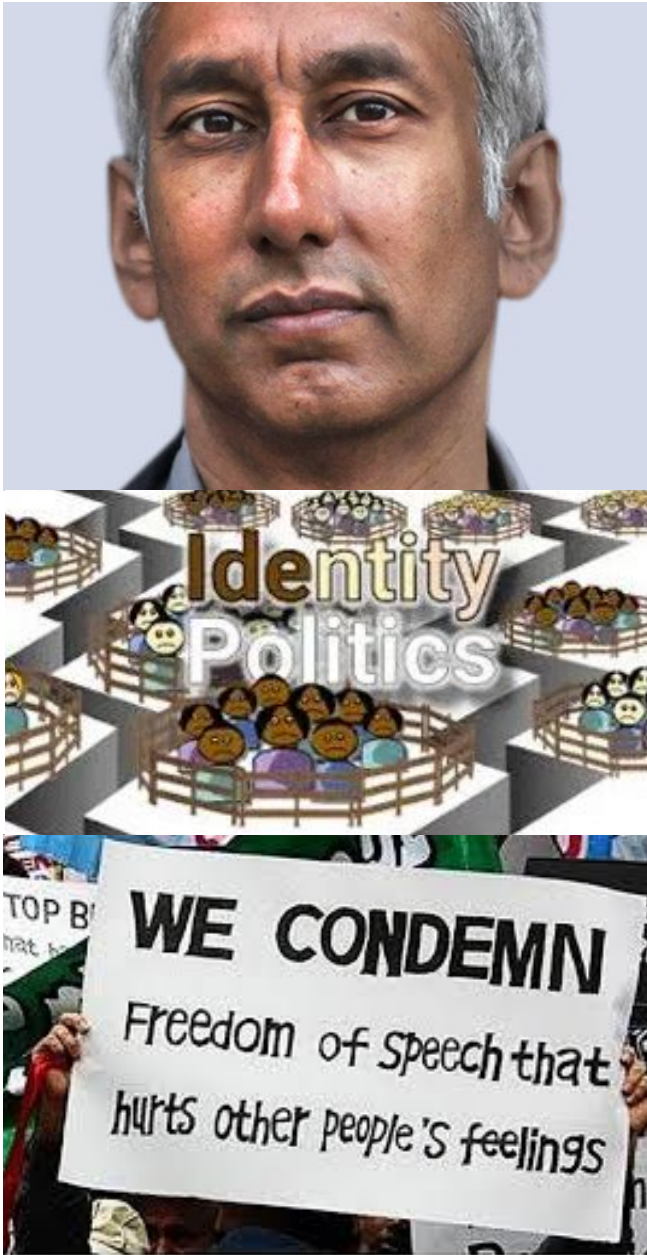


AND COMING UP AFTER EASTER...

Date in May to be confirmed - 3.35pm - S5

NOT ALL POLITICS IS IDENTITY POLITICS WITH KENAN MALIK

‘THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL’ claimed the second wave radical feminists - a doctrine which, combined with anti-racism and pro-LGBT activism, has led to the modern identity politics of ‘intersectionalism’. ‘IT’S POLITICAL CORRECTNESS GONE MAD’ screams back the Daily Mail on behalf of social conservatives on a seemingly daily basis. The latter is easy for metropolitan liberals to dismiss perhaps - but a growing number of figures on the political left are also beginning to question the excesses of ‘identitarian’ fundamentalism. Just how ‘progressive’ is it to shut down freedom of speech and academic freedom, and is there a danger that essentializing ‘identity’ groups will lead to undesirable and unintended consequences - such as the resurgence of ‘white identity politics’ that may perhaps have contributed to the electoral victories of Trump and Brexit? Observer columnist, broadcaster and author of *From Fatwa to Jihad* and *The Quest for Moral Compass*, Kenan Malik writes and speaks regularly on the subjects of race, religion and politics - in this talk he will explore these and many other questions relating to the development of identity politics and where we find ourselves today.



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