

## CULTURE CLUB

**Join us every Friday at 3pm-3.45pm.**

<p><b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April – The Execution of Socrates (Week B)</b></p> <p>Mr Whitman offers an introduction to one of the most famous moments in Western history: the execution of Socrates by the city he fought for, defended and loved. In the presentation, you will be introduced to Socrates and his ideas, the ancient Greek city-state of Athens and the reason the virtuous Socrates was brought to trial and condemned to death.</p>
<p><b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Battle of the Teutoberg Forest (Week A)</b></p> <p>Mr O'Connor outlines this gripping tale of imperial arrogance, incompetence and betrayal. In 9AD, three Roman legions (20,000 men) were slaughtered in a terrible battle with local German tribesmen. It was a catastrophe for Roman power and had huge consequences for subsequent European history.</p>
<p><b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – St Edmund's Cloud Zendo Meditation (Week B)</b></p> <p>Mr Clapp will deliver two meditation sessions. First, a brief 'check-in' (yoga nidra), followed by a 10-minute seated Zen meditation (zazen). This will be followed by a zen talk on a koan. Koans are traditional Zen 'riddles' that cannot be thought through or figured out – they are to be felt experientially.</p>
<p><b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May – The Most Beautiful Equation in the World (Week A)</b></p> <p>Dr Jones takes us through the most beautiful equation in the world. It revolves around Euler's equation with a history of the development of number systems throughout the world.</p>
<p><b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - When: The scientific secrets to perfect timing (Week B)</b></p> <p>Timing is everything. But we don't know much about timing itself. Timing, it's often assumed, is an art; or is it in fact a science?</p> <p>Drawing on a trove of research from psychology, biology and economics, Mr Comfort discusses how best to live, work and succeed. How can we use the hidden patterns of the day to build the ideal schedule? Why do certain breaks dramatically improve student test scores? How can we turn a stumbling beginning into a fresh start? When should you have your first coffee of the day? Based on the bestseller by Daniel Pink, we will explore as many facets to the science of timing as is possible. Don't be late!</p>
<p><b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Warrior Women (Week A)</b></p> <p>Mme Micheloud will focus on the Amazons who were the mythical enemies of the ancient Greeks. What do literature, history and archaeology say about them? Myth or Reality?</p>
<p><b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June – How to Be Free: An Introduction to Stoicism (Week B)</b></p> <p>Mr Whitman's follow up lecture - The death of Socrates was followed by the birth of several different schools of philosophy. Drawing inspiration, like other schools, from the example of Socrates and emphasising resilience, responsibility and self-reliance, Stoicism flourished not only in Ancient Greece but also in Imperial Rome, where it was preached by an ex-slave and followed by an emperor. Nor does its influence end there. Its ancient values can be found in our modern world and its words of wisdom have been cited by political prisoners and prisoners of war as a source of great solace in their darkest hours.</p>
<p><b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Catastrophic Collapse (Week A)</b></p> <p>Over history many thriving cultures have collapsed catastrophically, leaving behind isolated ruins. The massive stone heads on Easter Island in the Pacific Ocean hint to at a great civilisation that has since disappeared. Investigating this gives us lessons for the future and Mr Mount will present a line of argument from the famous Jared Diamond.</p>

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June - The American Civil War (Week B)**

The great American historian James McPherson has described the Civil War as the central event in America's historical consciousness. He argues that although the Revolution of 1776-1783 created the United States, the Civil War of 1861-1865 determined what kind of nation it would be. The war resolved two fundamental questions left unresolved by the revolution: whether the United States was to be a dissolvable confederation of sovereign states or an indivisible nation with a sovereign national government; and whether this nation, born of a declaration that all men were created with an equal right to liberty, would continue to exist as the largest slaveholding country in the world. Mr Morrissey will focus on the different strategies used by the Union and Confederacy as well as the changes in warfare brought about by advances in technology. There will also be a consideration of why the North won and what impact this had on the USA.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - 'Where the infectious pestilence did reign':  
How the plague influenced Shakespeare's writing (Week A)**

In this lecture Dr Caiazza will investigate how Shakespeare's experiences of quarantine and self-isolation, due to re-occurring episodes of plague, may have influenced the emotive power of his tragic lyricism.

Shakespeare's London was an overcrowded, rat-infested city that experienced frequent and severe outbreaks of bubonic plague between the years 1582 and 1609. Between 1603 and 1613, The Globe, and other London theatres, were closed 60% of the time causing economic devastation for actors and writers. The plague outbreaks of 1603-4 and 1606, were particularly devastating for London. To make matters worse, Elizabeth I died in 1603 and James I of England had to delay his coronation festivities. With this level of political, social and economic uncertainty, how did Shakespeare produce some of his finest tragedies in one year, including Macbeth, King Lear and Antony and Cleopatra, in 1606?

Although Shakespeare did not write plague literature unlike some of his contemporaries, such as Ben Jonson, Thomas Dekker and Thomas Nashe, he frequently used disease metaphors and wrote about the impact of wide-scale death on nations and people. In addition to this, Shakespeare also dramatically explored the helplessness of doctors who were ridiculed and satirised for their inability to cure illness.