

## CORSI ANNUALI

**Literature 1****Tuesdays 15.00 – 16.20****Level: C1/C2****Reform**

This year's theme explores individual psychology, social convention and wider politics in the 1500s, 1900s and 2000s

**Wolf Hall** - Hilary Mantel. A historical novel about the life of Thomas Cromwell and his rise to power during the reign of Henry VIII. Masterminding the King's divorce and a break with Rome he is by turns considered ruthless and scheming by some and one of Parliament's greatest figures by others. A fascinating journey through the Reformation.

**Howards End** – E.M. Forster. A classic novel following the lives of three families from very different social classes in early 1900s England. The liberal humanist Schlegel sisters meet the capitalist Wilcox family and their lives become entwined with the Basts, from a lower-class background. Howards End provides a social and political commentary on wealth and poverty that are as current now as they were at the beginning of the twentieth century.

**The Handmaid's Tale** - Margaret Atwood. An award winning dystopian novel set in the near future in the Republic of Gilead, a state which has overthrown the United States government. Through our main character Offred we learn of the events leading up the fall of society as we know it and learn about her way of life under this new regime.

*Students read about 40 pages for homework each week. In class we discuss the language used in the books, our opinion of the content, and any interesting diversions – cultural, linguistic, historical... Often radio or television programmes are used to supplement and increase understanding or provoke discussion, as well as journalism in the form of criticism or related articles. Written work (reviews, essays) can be given, if wished. On occasion reading may be replaced by an alternative medium where appropriate.*

**Literature 2****Wednesdays 15.00 – 16.20****Level: C1/C2****Visiting and Re-visiting**

This year's theme covers Ancient Greece transposed to modern-day London, a memoir of life in Iran told through books and a travel book which takes us along a sacred river.

**Home Fire – Shamsie.** This prizewinning novel (Women's Prize for Fiction 2018, Booker Prize 2017 longlist) is set in present day London, but takes its plot from Greek theatre. Can this work as a literary strategy? Are all tales universal? Should classics remain untouched?

**Reading Lolita in Tehran – Nafisi.** This is a memoir of Iran, told by a female Literature professor at the university. She uses her underground reading group and their books – forbidden by the regime - to tell us of changes in Iranian society, the women in the reading group and insights into the books they read; Fitzgerald, Austen, Nabokov and James. Can literature reflect or help us understand real life? Is Austen relevant to women in 20<sup>th</sup> century Iran?

**Empires of the Indus: Story of a River – Albinia.** This travel book takes us along the entire length of the River Indus. Travelling mainly in Pakistan, but also Tibet, India and Afghanistan and covering history, archaeology and geography, anthropology, politics and architecture, the book gives us an informed, fascinating account of the river and those who live and work with it. Is travel writing 'Literature'? Can educational writing be enjoyable?

*Students read about 30 pages for homework each week. In class we discuss the language used in the books, our opinion of the content, and any interesting diversions – cultural, linguistic, historical... Often radio or television programmes are used to supplement and increase understanding or provoke discussion, as well as journalism in the form of criticism or related articles. Written work (reviews, essays) can be given, if wished.*

## CORSI QUADRIMESTRALI

### **Translation**                      **Tuesdays 18.30 – 19.50**    **Level: C1.2/C2**

This course is suitable for students above a C1 level who would like to examine the complexities of both English and Italian. The course is aimed at helping participants develop translation skills from English into Italian and from Italian into English through a variety of exercises including:

- Practice at sentence level; practice at paragraph level; practice with longer texts.
- Pitfalls and false friends between English and Italian.
- Culture bumps and localization.
- Sight translation.

Participants will be expected to integrate classroom activities with some theoretical reading.

### **English and the Arts**            **Mondays 17.00 – 18.20**    **Level: C1/C2**

This course consists of close encounters with great works of art and artists in the fields of painting, cinema, literature, sculpture, architecture, fashion and music.

Lessons over the last three years have included analyses of approximately 50 authors, such as Harold Pinter, Francis Bacon, Zadie Smith, Frank Gehry, Agnes B, J.M.W Turner, Banksy, Robert Altman, J.M. Basquiat, Damien Hirst, Pink Floyd, Ai Wei Wei, Stanley Kubrick, Timberlake Wertenbaker, Geoffrey Caucer, William Shakespeare, Anita Brookner, David Bowie, Julian Schnabel, Cindy Sherman, Alfred Hitchcock, Bruce Springsteen among others, thus covering an extended period of the history of art and a variety of themes and features.

Each lesson is focused on discussions, readings, audio and video materials, online articles and offers an opportunity for language analysis and practice.

This is a C1 level course and is envisaged for students who love/work in the arts and aim at improving their language accuracy in English.

A syllabus will be provided before the beginning of the course next October 2018.

### **British Culture & Politics**    **Thursdays 17.00 – 18.20**    **Level: C1/C2**

From October 2018, the British Council is offering a new course: British Culture and Politics (1945-2018): this is an in-depth trip through the various strands of post-war British culture such as fashion, music, design, food and much more in the context of the politics of the time. We will look at the many transformations that have taken place in British society; what caused them and how socio- economic change influenced political parties, self-image and popular culture in general. In this interactive course, we will focus on changes in language which reflect the particular conditions of the time. From the rationing of the post-war period through the consumer boom that followed to the polarising changes of the 1980s and beyond this course considers everything in recent history that explains the way things are now.