



1-day course

“How to Live. What to Do”: The Place of Poetry in the Twenty-first Century

September 10th, 2021

Target audience

English teachers at secondary I and secondary II-levels

Date and schedule

September 10th, 2021
9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Course venue

UNIL-EPFL Campus,
Lausanne

Certification

A certificate of participation will be delivered at the end of the course.

Teaching approach

Through lectures, discussions and workshops, the course will introduce participants to a range of texts and their adaptation to classroom situation.

Participants are encouraged to share their experience and their pedagogical reflection on the role of poetry for the development of critical thinking.

Organization

- English Department, Faculté des lettres, Université de Lausanne

Introduction

This year's *Formation Continue* borrows its title from a poem by Wallace Stevens, “How to Live. What to Do.” Toward the middle of his life, Stevens proposed two affirmative questions that contain just about all the other questions we may ask ourselves, possibly even more so in times of crisis. This course proposes to envisage the role of poetry in a disenchanted world and explore the pedagogical possibilities that this reputedly difficult literary genre can offer in our classrooms. One of the aims of the course is to show that the alleged difficulty of reading poetry can be confronted and overcome and can yield unforeseen results that will light up the students’ relation to language and reading. We propose that poetry is a satisfying way of entertaining questions that encompass and confront the difficulties of relating to others and to the world. Whether we consider our place in the natural world, the agency we have in our lives and the lives of others, or whether we wonder how to deal with the beauty and the horror of the world, poetry invites us to read and reassess these questions.

Objectives

- Demystify the reading of poetry and present its pedagogical virtues
- Introduce reading strategies for poetry
- Read poems together and realize we never read alone
- Render accessible some of the basic vocabulary to talk about poetry
- Examine the role of poets and poetry today
- Re-enchant life and the world through poetry

“How to Live. What to Do”: The Place of Poetry in the Twenty-first Century

Register on www.formation-continue-unil-epfl.ch/en

Course fee

- CHF 200.– including coffee breaks.

Registration deadline

June 25, 2021. Places are limited.

Training team

- **Prof. Martine Hennard Dutheil de la Rochère**, Head of Continuing Education for English, UNIL
- **Dr. Boris Vejdovsky**, Deputy Head of Continuing Education, English Department, UNIL
- **Dr. Marie Emilie Walz**, Coordinator of Continuing Education, English Department, UNIL

Teachers

- **Prof. Rachel Falconer**, Prof. Ord. in Modern English Literature, English Department, UNIL
- **Dr. Philip Lindholm**, FNS Senior Researcher in English Literature, English Department, UNIL
- **Prof. Agnieszka Soltysik-Monnet**, Prof. Ord. in American Literature and Culture, English Department, UNIL
- **Dr. Rachael Stanley**, Junior Lecturer in Modern English Literature, English Department, UNIL
- **Dr. Boris Vejdovsky**, Senior Lecturer in American Literature, English Department, UNIL



Programme

Morning lectures:

(9.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m.)

- Welcome by **Martine Hennard Dutheil de la Rochère** and **Boris Vejdovsky**
- **Boris Vejdovsky**: “How to live. What to do”: Elisabeth Bishop, Wallace Stevens, Laura Kasischke
- **Rachel Falconer**: Afflatus Encounters: 20-21C Bird Poetry
- **Philip Lindholm**: A Taste of Romantic Poetry

Afternoon talks and workshops:

(2.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.)

- **Agnieszka Soltysik-Monnet**: How ‘Nevermore’ Became ‘Ever More’: Poe’s ‘The Raven’ and its Popular Reception
- **Rachael Stanley**: Workshopping Poems: From Teachers, For Teachers
- Book display and closing apéritif

© Photos : Antoine Dao; Fotolia.com | nyul, Yuri Arcurs, Rido.



Formation Continue UNIL-EPFL

EPFL Innovation Park | Bâtiment E

CH -1015 Lausanne | Suisse

Tél.: +41 21 693 71 20 | formcont@unil.ch

www.formation-continue-unil-epfl.ch | [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

swissuniversities

formation continue *Unil* **EPFL**