

New at RMT National Education Centre, Doncaster

## Ted Hughes and the White Goddess – An Introduction

Friday - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
Maximum enrolment is 15: early reservation advised



Residential Course open to all  
Fee: £110.00pp

Robert Graves's celebration of the principle of the White Goddess has been at the centre of Ted Hughes's poetry from **The Hawk In The Rain** (1958) through to **Birthday Letters** (1998). This residential weekend course focuses on the way in which Hughes makes reference to her presence as the Mother Muse to point his celebration of "the admirable violence" of the world of Nature, and to chart his quest to venerate and restore both her and the feminine principle. Reference will be made to Hughes's collections written during his poetic relationship with Sylvia Plath and the poetry he published in the aftermath of her death, including extracts from **Crow** (1970), **Cave Birds** (1975) and the **Gaudete Epilogue-poems** (1977). We will also explore uncollected poems from the period.

**Course tutor: Roger Elkin** has taught poetry courses to adults in Further Education for over forty years. He is a published critic on mid-period Ted Hughes; and as a prize winning poet with ten collections in print approaches the work of fellow poets with the insights of his own writing experience. Roger successfully delivered poetry weekends at Barlaston on Elizabeth Bartlett, U A Fanthorpe, Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes, Sylvia Kantaris, D. H. Lawrence, Sylvia Plath, Carole Satyamurti and W. B. Yeats.

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## **Programme**

Study sessions last approximately 1 ½ hours

### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

4.00- Arrival and registration at College Reception  
6.00pm  
6.00pm Dinner  
**7.30pm** ***Introductions: Meeting the Goddess: the mythic framework***  
9.00pm Bar

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

8.30am Breakfast  
**9.30am** ***“Admirable Violence” – the early animal poems***  
11.00am Morning coffee and biscuits  
**11.30am** ***Alternative focus: Wodwos, wolves, rats and recklings***  
1.00pm Lunch  
2.30pm Chance to listen to recordings of Ted Hughes reading poems (optional)  
4.00pm Tea  
**4.30pm** ***Vegetative presence and the Goddess***  
7.00pm Dinner  
**8.00pm** ***Relations and relationships – The White Goddess, Love and romance –  
maiden, mother, crone***

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

8.30am Breakfast  
**9.30am** ***Beyond Plath: Crow, Cave Birds and Gaudete end-poems***  
11.00am Morning coffee  
11.30am Close of course, and heading home

#### **Pre-course preparation:**

Required reading: Ted Hughes, **New Selected Poems, 1957-1994**, (Faber), pages 3 - 156  
Suggested reading: Robert Graves, **The White Goddess**, (Faber)

**The special fee**, subsidized by the RWF educational charity, **£110.00** pp includes en suite bedroom, all meals, refreshments and sessions.

Payable by PayPal at [www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk) or by post (Application form attached/on web-site).

Any queries or further information, phone **0161 4779376**

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The course will run at The RMT National Education Centre, 47-49 Thorne Road,  
Doncaster, DN1 2EX Tel: 01302 556 870

NB: Rail services to Doncaster are very good. Taxi from station to RMT Centre - just £4.00.  
There is no car-parking at the Centre, so advance planning of car-parking arrangements recommended using appropriate Doncaster web-information.

