

CLOSE-READING COURSE · FOUR SESSIONS

Reading Emerson

The founding voice of American thought

A four-session close-reading of Ralph Waldo Emerson's essential essays. Emerson made American thought possible — the writer who gave American writers permission to trust the news of the self. We read four of his central essays slowly, sentence by sentence.

SIX REPRESENTATIVE SESSIONS

1. Session 1 — 'Nature' (1836): the founding manifesto
2. Session 2 — 'Self-Reliance': the essay every American has heard of
3. Session 3 — 'The American Scholar': the intellectual Declaration of Independence
4. Session 4 — 'Circles': Emerson revising Emerson
5. Sentence patterns: how Emerson builds a thought
6. Reading Emerson aloud: rhythm as argument

FORMATS · ALL CAN BE ADAPTED TO YOUR CALENDAR

- Full series:** The full set of sessions (see above)
- Workshop:** Shorter version, shaped to the venue's calendar
- Single talk:** One 60-90 minute lecture on a chosen theme
- Delivery:** In person, on Zoom, or hybrid

INSTRUCTOR · JAMES F. MULHERN

Kirkus-starred novelist · Oxford Writing Fellow · Professor Emeritus of English

Give Them Unquiet Dreams — Kirkus Best Book of 2019. Pushcart Prize nomination. Founder, Silver Current Press.

TO BOOK OR ASK QUESTIONS

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