

NEWS FROM:



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemakingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
La Grotto House, Glendarrach Rd, Rondebosch, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650-3733/2, Fax: +27 (0) 21 650-5682
Internet: www.uct.ac.za

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Erwin and other experts to help stretch minds at UCT Summer School 2011

ANC MP Alec Erwin will coordinate a lecture series on the challenges of developing nations as part of the course offerings at the University of Cape Town Summer School programme, which opens on 17 January.

Although registrations are quickly filling up, openings are still available for courses and lectures ranging from the origins of emotions to the highly contested issue of baboon management in the Cape Peninsula. "With 39 courses and 10 lectures, everyone is bound to find a topic that will extend their knowledge and grip their interest," said Summer School Director Medee Rall.

Government fundis to talk development

Erwin has lined up Joel Netshitenzhe, the head of policy co-ordination and advisory services in The Presidency; Chippy Olver, the director-general of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism; and Nkosana Moyo, the vice-president and chief operations officer of the African Development Bank, to discuss "A 'developmental state': the challenges ahead".

The course will examine the implications of a commitment to a developmental state for South Africa and Africa, and assess key contemporary challenges. Lecture titles include "State capacity in Africa" by Moyo; "Development and the environment" by Olver; and "South Africa's developmental capacity" by Netshitenzhe.

Award winners to sing the praises of a Century of Music

Award-winning performing artists Virginia Davids and Francois du Toit, jazz extraordinaire Andrew Lilley, African music and instruments expert Dizu Plaatjies and composer Hendrik Hofmeyr – all part of the South African College of Music at UCT – will headline the course: "A Century of Music-Making: The South African College of Music at 100". The five evening

lecture-performances will begin with an overview of selected memorable events, personalities and developments that have been part of the college over the last hundred years, interspersed with relevant music performed by well-known artists. Casual attendance will be possible, and tickets will be on sale at the door if seats are available. Special scholar tickets are available at R50 per night, to enable learners who may be considering a career in music to attend.

Puppets on more than a string

Professor Jane Taylor, novelist, playwright, scholar and head of Handspring Trust, will survey some of the extraordinary work being done by the Handspring Puppet Company in "Handspring Puppet Company's uncanny art". The course will consider the range of the company's work, from detailed humanistic naturalism to fantastical creatures; groundbreaking collaborations with artist and director William Kentridge; as well as current works. The company's practice of deploying puppeteers, whose animated and expressive faces can be seen, has challenged many of the commonly held assumptions about traditional puppetry.

Newton and his enemies

While no individual can claim to be the originator of what has come to be called the Scientific Revolution, surely Isaac Newton is more responsible than any other person. David Wolfe, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of New Mexico and Director of the Oppenheimer Institute for Science and International Co-operation, will discuss Newton and his enemies. Lecture titles include "Newton's life, and an introduction to light"; "Robert Hooke, the pleasure of being correct and the agony of making a mistake"; "John Flamsteed, Astronomer Royal"; "Leibniz and the invention of the calculus"; "The end of a life and lasting fame".

A terrible beauty is born

The 20th century was a period of great social and intellectual change in Britain, marked by countless conflicts including the Boer War, two world wars, the Spanish Civil War and the Cold War; and dominated by startling discoveries in the sciences, the ideas of Freud, Jung and Bergson, and violent debates about imperialism, feminism and the Irish Question. In the course "A terrible beauty is born: Selected British poets of the 20th Century", Dr Jean Moorcroft Wilson, biographer and lecturer at the University of London, will open with the work of Yeats and then turn to a tougher, sparer language and more realistic and shocking imagery. TS Eliot's "Four Quartets", the "Pylon Poets" of the troubled 1930s, the "New Apocalypse" writers of the 1940s and "The Movement" versifiers of the 1950s will be explored in the work of WH Auden, Dylan Thomas and Philip Larkin.

All are welcome to join in the UCT experience from 17 to 28 January. Registration details, course commencement dates and other Summer School opportunities are available on <http://www.ems.uct.ac.za>.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Media Liaison Duty Officer

Tel: (021) 650 5428/5427/5672 Fax (021) 650 3780

Cell: 073 567 9280

E-mail: loga.makwela@uct.ac.za

La Grotto House, Glendarrach Road

University of Cape Town

Rondebosch

Website: www.uct.ac.za