

R412 Explaining Britain One Book at a Time
OLLI Spring 2014 11.50am–1.15pm Reston
Kay Menchel

In this class we'll take a lighthearted look at some British institutions and then see how they have been depicted in literature. Along the way we will clear up some mysteries: What is an entail, and why would you have one? Why are public schools in Britain private? What should you never say when meeting the Queen? And where and when might we Brits like to have a chin wag? There is no reading ahead required; excerpts will be provided in class to demonstrate how authors such as Austen, Dickens, Hardy, Waugh and Woolf have depicted the Great British people and their multiple eccentricities.

1. Tuesday 25 March – The Class System
2. Tuesday 1 April – Parliament
3. Tuesday 8 April – The Church of England
4. Tuesday 15 April – Language and Dialect
5. Tuesday 22 April – Schools and Universities
6. Tuesday 29 April – The Legal System
7. Tuesday 6 May – Food and Leisure
8. Tuesday 13 May – The Royal Family

kaymenchel@gmail.com