**R412 A Tour of Hardy’s Wessex**

**OLLI Fall Session 2014 - Reston**

**Kay Menchel**

Thomas Hardy is one of England’s most beloved literary figures. His elegiac works chart the declining rural society of the late Victorian era. In this class we will sample three different expressions of Hardy’s art: short stories in the collection *Life’s Little Ironies;* a novel, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*; and some of Hardy’s poetry.

The full text of *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and all the stories listed below from *Life’s Little Ironies* are available for free at Project Gutenberg http://www.gutenberg.org

The Poems are all available for free at the website of The Poetry Foundation http://www.poetryfoundation.org

Tuesday 23 September Introduction, Where is Wessex? and Chapter 1 of *The Mayor of Casterbridge.*

Tuesday 30 September Chapter 2 to Chapter 11 *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

Tuesday 7 October Chapter 12 to Chapter 23 *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

Tuesday 14 October Chapter 24 to Chapter 35 *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

Tuesday 21 October Chapter 35 to end *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

Tuesday 28 October “The Son’s Veto” and “For Conscience’ Sake” from *Life’s Little Ironies*

Tuesday 4 November “A Tragedy of Two Ambitions” and “To Please His Wife” from *Life’s Little Ironies*

Tuesday 11 November Poetry: “The Shadow on the Stone” “The Dead Man Walking” “In Time of ‘The Breaking of Nations’” “And There was a Great Calm”

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