after:hours Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication

**Course Descriptor**

**Course Title:** Garden History: Botanic Gardens

**Type of Course:** Adult Education

**Credit:** Not credit bearing

**Weekly Session Titles and Descriptions**

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| Week | Session Title |
| 1 | The earliest records – texts revealing botany in Egypt and plant use in ancient times |
| 2 | The Kingdom of Flowers – China – oranges and camelias |
| 3 | The rediscovery of the ancients – texts and gardens in the Renaissance |
| 4 | Pisa, Padua and Florence – gardens for learning and collecting |
| 5 | Portugal – plants, spices and parrots |
| 6 | Spanish botanic discoveries and Philip II’s garden notebook |
| 7 | Herbals and a little plagiarism |
| 8 | Dutch East India Company, piracy and pineapples |
| 9 | France and the gardener botanist |
| 10 | Botanists and the Enlightenment |

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| Course OverviewAlthough botanical gardens were known in the ancient world, they really became features in the western European landscape in the Middle Ages. Growing from medicinal herb gardens, they developed rapidly in the Renaissance to become significant status symbols and centres for extending scientific knowledge.But the story of botanical gardens is also full of intrigue, duplicity and one-upmanship, with fierce competition between gardeners, plant hunters and their patrons to find new species as western empires grew, and the potential economic benefits of many plants became clear.Whether you enjoy gardening or visiting gardens, or are just fascinated by history, art history or the renaissance world, join us on this extraordinary exploration into the birth of the modern gardening.Required Previous Experience (if any)NoneRequired Reading Material or Special Equipment Needed (if any)* None specified

Learning OutcomesAt the end of this course you should be able to1. Recognise and identify the stylistic qualities of a number of botanic gardens and their history and evolution from and differences to earlier garden forms
2. Identify the different forms of botanic gardens in different parts of the world and at different periods of time
3. Recognise and/or discuss a number of botanic gardens gardens in relation to their formal qualities, symbolism and use, and social and historical context, and their relationship to broader art and cultural history.

**Possible Further Study**Further courses on the after:hours programme might be useful to you.Additional informationThis course descriptor may be subject to change during the delivery of the course, depending on the specific direction and nature of the learner cohort, and is intended to be responsive to the group dynamics as they emerge during the delivery of the course. |