

## Othello's Island: Medieval and Renaissance Cyprus



Othello's Tower on Cyprus

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**A one-week, noncredit course offered at The Cornaro Institute  
on Cyprus, 1- 17 March of 2013, and sponsored by**

*The Cornaro Institute and Distance Learning in the School of English at the  
University of Sheffield*

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This one-week class will take an interdisciplinary approach to Medieval and Renaissance Cyprus. We will hear lectures and go on to discuss English literature (including Shakespeare's *Othello*), material culture (including textiles), the history of food, architecture, and art in a fully equipped modern classroom. For two days we will abandon the classroom and walk the landscape where it all happened. We will see the buildings and feel the texture of the cloth of Cyprus. We will sample food prepared as food was prepared on Cyprus 400 to 700 years ago.

### **Lectures with discussion**

“Crusaders and the Architecture of Medieval Cyprus”. This talk will be delivered as we walk through the Medieval city of Famagusta (coach trip). Along the way, we will visit Othello's Tower, pictured above. Benedict Read (BA Oxford University, BA University of London), Senior Research Fellow, University of Leeds and Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries.

“Food and Drink on Medieval and Renaissance Cyprus”. After the talk, we will have a light lunch prepared according to medieval and Renaissance techniques. Michael Paraskos (PhD, University of Nottingham), Director of the Cornaro Institute and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

“Gothic art, Cyprus, and Europe”. This lecture will be delivered as we walk among Gothic buildings including a cathedral in Nicosia (coach trip). Dr Mickalis Olympios (PhD, University of London), Lecturer in Art History, University of Cyprus.

“Robert Herrick, English Renaissance Poetry, and the Textiles of Cyprus”. After hearing in the lecture about “Cypress lawn” and the “liquefaction of” Julia’s clothes (in Robert Herrick’s poem), we will look at local textiles currently being produced and sold. James Fitzmaurice (PhD, University of Iowa), Emeritus Professor of English, Northern Arizona University, and Director of Distance Learning for English, University of Sheffield.

“Cypriot Productions of *Othello* on Cyprus and the History of Cyprus”. The lecture will examine the interaction of historical reality and fiction in textual and theatrical versions of Shakespeare’s *Othello*. Eleni Pilla (PhD, University of London), Adjunct Professor of English, Northern Arizona University.

The cost of the course is 300 UK pounds per person. Students will make their own travel arrangements with help from project staff.

**Contact: Dr James Fitzmaurice, 0114-235-1538, [j.fitzmaurice@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.fitzmaurice@sheffield.ac.uk)**