

The course will treat many aspects of the Moon, from the familiar object we see in our night sky to how it has been interpreted in art and in many cultures through history. Examine all the ways we encounter the Moon – phases, tides, blue Moon, harvest Moon, man in the Moon, and solar and lunar eclipses.

Explore the prominent features of the Moon's face, features you can easily see by eye, in a pair of binoculars or a small telescope, and discover why we only ever see about half the Moon.

Survey how ancients interpreted the Moon in cave drawings, sculpture and literature to history and cinema, and see some famous artist's works (Van Gogh, for one) and not so famous works that beautifully portray the Moon. We will also look at how the Moon is often misrepresented in art.

Fifty years on from the Apollo Moon landings, we will re-examine their impact and why and how they took place and review the harrowing descent of Apollo 11 to the surface of the Moon with both actual recordings and recreations. And look to the future as nations plan missions to build bases on the Moon.

In addition to the five classes, we will also provide an evening of lunar observing through a telescope capable of showing lunar craters and mountains in detail.