Course title: John Ruskin and the 19th Century

Introduction: Although these seminars will range as widely as possible over the work and ideas of John Ruskin in the context of 19th century cultural and architectural debate, the principal focus will be on his three volume study, The Stones of Venice (1851-53). Fortunately, Ruskin’s complete works, the so-called Library Edition, The Works of John Ruskin, edited by E.T. Cook and Alexander Wedderburn, 39 vols, London, George Allen, 1903-12, are available on line from the website of the Ruskin Library and Research Centre, Lancaster University: http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/users/ruskinlib/Pages/Works.html

Participants are invited to read as much as possible of The Stones of Venice (Volumes 9-11 in the Library Edition). There is also some suggested reading for specific lectures.

Monday 13 Feb 6-8 pm
“Sight and Insight”
Participants should bring a pencil and some A4 blank paper

Wednesday 15 Feb 6-8pm
“Measuring the Stones: Ruskin’s research for The Stones of Venice”

Thursday 16 Feb 6.30 -8.30pm
Public Lecture
“John Ruskin: The Argument of the Eye”

Friday 17 Feb 9-11 am
“Notes on the Construction of The Stones of Venice”
Suggested reading: Chapters 1 and 2 of Volume 1 of The Stones of Venice, Library Edition volume 9 pp 17-73

Monday 20 Feb 6-8pm
“The most disgusting book ever written by man’: Ruskin and Victor Hugo”
Suggested reading: “This Will Kill That”, Chapter 2 of Book 5 of Victor Hugo’s novel Notre-Dame de Paris

Wednesday 22 Feb 6-8pm
“‘The Awakening Conscience’: Ruskin and Holman Hunt”
Suggested reading: Ruskin’s letters to The Times, Library Edition volume 12, pp 319-335

Friday 24 Feb 11am-1pm
“Ruskin and St Mark’s”
“A Letter to Count Zorzi”, Library Edition volume 24, pp 405-411

2-4pm
“Ruskin, Morris and ‘The Nature of Gothic’”