

Introduction to Creative Writing

ADED 11337

2 hours per week for 10 weeks Online or Face-to-Face

10 Credits

Course description

This course offers anyone new to creative writing a chance to learn about different types of writing and to try them out themselves with encouragement, support and guidance.

Together we'll read and discuss inspiring examples of writing (such as poetry, short story, novel, non-fiction and drama) to find literary techniques, craft and skills that we can apply to our own work. Writing exercises will allow us to practise these skills and share our work for feedback. We will also discuss habits and ideas that help us write. Overall, this course offers a welcoming first step to the art of writing creatively.

Teaching Aims

This course aims to:

- *Introduce students to some of the key literary characteristics of different forms of creative writing (such as poetry, short story, novel, non-fiction and drama) through textual analysis of notable examples*
- *Encourage individual, creative approaches to those forms through practical writing exercises that enable students to apply key techniques from these forms to their own writing*
- *Build students' confidence by submitting their creative writing for peer and tutor feedback, and via discussion of helpful writing habits*

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- *Identify some of the key literary characteristics of different forms of creative writing (such as poetry, short story, novel, non-fiction and drama) and choose to apply some of these to their own writing*
- *Compose persuasive, artistically coherent and technically competent written work that demonstrates some of the key techniques of at least one of these literary forms*
- *Reflect upon their own creative process and that of others, including helpful writing habits*

Content & Structure

This course will typically be delivered in the format described below. If this is subject to change, your course tutor will inform you in advance.

Include information on:

For Zoom classes – 2-hour live online Zoom workshops

For Face-to-Face classes – 2 hour live workshop

[update as per your course] Some short courses for 2022-23 will be delivered online through live Zoom sessions; others will be delivered face-to-face in seminar rooms.

Materials will be posted on Moodle to be accessed at students' convenience. Please note that class recordings are for your own use; please do not post them or make them public.

Meeting Times & Places

- **For face-to-face classes: the location of the class will be emailed to you**
- **For Zoom classes: Use the Zoom link sent to you and on the Moodle to join the class each week**
 - Zoom video conferencing is used in **live** courses as a virtual classroom. As a University of Glasgow student, you will have your own [Zoom account](#), which you log in to using your GUID and password.
 - If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, this [How to Zoom](#) guide will take you through the basics.
 - Any IT issues raise a call with the [IT helpdesk](#) – via their [contact details](#) or 0141 330 4800

Assessment Overview

Each course will offer a range of formative and summative assessments:

- Formative assessments help support your learning and the development of your understanding of the course subject; they do not count towards your final grade.

In-class creative writing exercises and peer workshop feedback will help students prepare for the final portfolio submission and self-reflective essay.

Students will also be given specific guidance on the format and content of a short self-reflective essay (for example: inspiration, any research undertaken, techniques used, critical editorial decisions and which creative intentions were executed successfully or not).

- Summative assessments formally test how far you have met the intended learning outcomes for the course, and determine the final grades for your courses.

To assess Intended Learning Outcomes 1 and 2:

Portfolio (1,500 words, 35 lines of poetry or 3 pages equivalent) of original creative writing (such as poetry, short story, novel, non-fiction)

and/or drama) in the form of several shorter pieces, extract(s) from a longer work or one singular complete piece (75%)

To assess Intended Learning Outcomes 1 and 3: (25%).

Self-reflective essay (500 words) explaining how a positive writing habit or piece of feedback gained on this course helped the student produce their portfolio (25%).

Both due: one week after the end of the course.

Submitting assessments

Assessments must be submitted electronically via the portal available through the 'Assessments' section of the course Moodle page.

On your course Moodle page, you will be able to download a Coversheet which should be filled out and submitted with every assessment.

In order to comply with University regulations, you will be required when submitting an assignment through Moodle to agree to a statement of originality that confirms that the submission is your own work. The originality of your work can also be checked by Turnitin. This is a program that checks the wording of your work with that of other sources and generates a similarity report to warn of the possibility of plagiarism.

There is further information on assessment procedures in the Student Handbook for credit-bearing courses.

Referencing

Referencing is crucial when you are writing essays, reports, and any other form of written assessment: you will need to show where your information and ideas have come from, and what reading you have done.

Your tutor will recommend a referencing system that you should use in assessments. This might differ from course to course but will be appropriate for the discipline you are studying. For this course, your referencing system is *[insert text: e.g. Harvard]*

Not referencing correctly may result in you including the work of others in an assignment as if it were your own. This is **plagiarism**, and is a serious academic offence, not only when done deliberately, but also when it is due to lack of knowledge or understanding of how to cite and reference your sources properly. Plagiarism is a breach of the Student Code of Conduct, and can lead to you receiving a reduced mark or a penalty grade H (effectively a 'zero'). If a plagiarism offence is confirmed, this will be held on record by the Senate Office throughout your career at the University of Glasgow and will be taken into account in the event of any subsequent accusation of plagiarism. This includes reuse of coursework you have submitted for credit on another course, also known as 'auto' or 'self-plagiarism'.

The Learning Enhancement and Academic Development Service (LEADS) has more information and advice on how to avoid plagiarism:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/leads/students/plagiarism/>. You are also strongly encouraged to read the [University plagiarism statement](#).

Getting help and support

The [Learning Enhancement and Academic Development Service \(LEADS\)](#) has more information and support, including 1:1 consultations, recordings, guides and workshops on many aspects of your learning from taking notes and writing essays to time management and assessment.

The University has a Disability Service (DS) with staff dedicated to providing a full range of advice and support for students with disabilities. They welcome enquiries and applications from students including those with dyslexia, chronic medical or mental health conditions, an autism spectrum condition, sensory impairments, and mobility impairments. They can provide practical assistance relating to access, equipment, and exam procedures.

Further information can be found in the Student Handbook and through the DS webpages: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/disability/>

[Student support services](#) are also available to guide you through personal difficulties.

Deadlines and extensions

Each component of assessment has a deadline to which you must adhere. If you anticipate any difficulties with meeting a deadline, contact your tutor as soon as possible. Your tutor can advise on the process for obtaining short term extensions; longer term extensions must be applied for using the [Good Cause process](#). Work submitted after a deadline without a pre-arranged extension will be subject to penalties.

A note on how and in what circumstances extensions may be obtained, and on penalties for late submission, may be found in your Student Handbook (either for credit-bearing courses or for Access courses).

Results

You should consult the Student Handbook on [the Short Courses Information for Students Moodle](#) for detailed information on how your work is graded and what your grade means. Marked assessments should be returned to you no later than 3 weeks after the deadline (unless there are extenuating circumstances). Your grades are preliminary until they have been approved by an internal moderator, by the subject External Examiner, and finally by the Board of Examiners.

Your final grade for each of your courses will be published on MyCampus after the relevant Board of Examiners meeting has been held to confirm your grades (generally, in January, June and August).

Staff

Course Tutor: Dr Cathy McSporran - Cathy.McSporran@glasgow.ac.uk

Any queries regarding your booking, payment and your zoom link can be referred to the Short Courses Admin team on shortcourses@glasgow.ac.uk

Any academic or general queries can be made to the subject coordinator Katy Hastie on katy.hastie@glasgow.ac.uk

Any IT issues raise a call with the [IT helpdesk](#) – via their [contact details](#) or 0141 330 4800

Required Reading

Short extracts of prose and/or poetry will be read at each class. These extracts will be included on the course Moodle page; you should read them before each class.

For Weeks 4, 6, 8 and 10, students' own writing will be posted on Moodle a week in advance. Please read these before each class.

Recommended Reading

These texts are not compulsory, but if you would like to read more about each weekly topic, these are a good place to start.

General Writing

- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*, Stephen King (Hodder & Stoughton) 2000
- *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*, Natalie Goldberg (Shambhala Publications) 2005

Short Stories

- *Writing Short Stories: A Writers' and Artists' Companion*, Courttia Newland & Tania Hershman (Bloomsbury) 2014

Short Story collections:

- *Hings*: Chris McQueer (404 Ink) 2017
- *Magic for Beginners*: Kelly Link (Harper Perennial, London) 2007
- *Collected Stories*: Raymond Carver (Library of America) 2009

Novels

- *Writers' & Artists' Guide to How to Write: How to plan, structure and write your novel*: William Ryan (Bloomsbury Yearbooks, London) 2021

Memoir & Life Writing

- *Life Writing: Writing Biography, Autobiography and Memoir: A Writers' and Artists' Companion*, Sally Cline (Bloomsbury) 2013

Memoir & Life Writing examples:

- *Angela's Ashes: A Memoir of a Childhood*, Frank McCourt (HarperCollins) 1996
- *I Am Malala*, Malala Yousafzai & Christina Lamb (Orion Publishing Co) 2013
- *Motherwell: a Girlhood*, Deborah Orr (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) 2020

- *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, David Sedaris (Little, Brown) 2004

Poetry

- *The Ode Less Travelled: Unlocking the Poet Within*, Stephen Fry (Hutchinson) 2005

Reference

- *The Writers' & Artists' Yearbook 2023* (Bloomsbury) 2022
- *The Children's Writers' & Artists' Yearbook 2023* (Bloomsbury) 2022

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Course Timetable
Tutor: Dr Cathy McSporran

Week	Tutor	Session Content	For this week...
1	C McS	Introduction and Good Beginnings	No homework.
2	C McS	Writing Short Stories	All students: Read WEEKLY READING – Week 2
3	C McS	Writing a Novel: Getting Started	All students: Read WEEKLY READING – Week 3 <u>Workshop A Students: submit work today</u>
4	C McS	<u>Students' own work: Workshop A</u> Narrative techniques: Writing Description	<i>All students: Read Workshop A students' writing</i>
5	C McS	Life-Writing and Creative Non-Fiction	All students: Read WEEKLY READING – Week 5 <u>Workshop B Students: Submit work today</u>
6	C McS	<u>Students' own work: Workshop B</u> Narrative techniques: Showing, Not Telling	<i>All students: Read Workshop B students' writing</i>
7	C McS	An Introduction to Poetry	All students: Read WEEKLY READING – Week 7 <u>Workshop C Students: Submit work today</u>
8	C McS	<u>Students' own work: Workshop C</u> Reflective Writing	<i>All students: Read Workshop C students' writing</i>
9	C McS	Students' Choice: Writing Drama, Genre Writing OR Writing for Children (OR an extra Workshop session)	All students: Read WEEKLY READING – Week 9 <u>Workshop D Students: Submit work today</u>
10	C McS	<u>Students' own work: Workshop D</u> Keep on Writing: What's Next?	<i>All students: Read Workshop D students' writing</i>
Final summative deadlines: 1 Week after Week 10 at 11:59			