

COURSE OUTLINE

CREATIVE WRITING

This course operates on several different levels, increasing students' awareness of a range of writing techniques at the same time as guiding them in the production of their own work. "Masterclasses" reveal the working methods of successful creative writers, drawing on the works of both traditional and contemporary authors, and in this way students build up a "tool kit" based on demonstrations of the tried and tested working methods and technical strategies as practised by famous writers.

Some of the issues and techniques considered are: -

The relation between writing and publishing. Writers readers and authors, the eternal triangle...

Intention and expression, the art of exploiting windfalls

Meaning. How much meaning is there in a text?

Over-reading and under-reading

The issue of interpretation. Rorschach blots and threats to security

Automatic writing

Creating the illusion of Life

The tool kit. From a word to a book

Punctuation, onomatopoeia, diction, syntax, rhythm, rhyme, metaphor

The stream of consciousness novel. Representations of reality

Narrative, plot, description, character and commentary

From monologue to dialogue

Prose, verse and drama

Horizontal and vertical aspects of writing

Working up a story. Loose threads and Beethoven's Fifth. Red herrings and the manipulation of the reader

The Great Tones – Lyrical/Satirical

Tapping the Unconscious

Spontaneity, free association and surrealism

The colour of saying. Reading aloud

The Great Rhythms – Comedy and Tragedy

At the same time students also produce their own work, both individually and on a collaborative, group basis, which is developed and assessed in guided workshops. Individual work is led by the students themselves on the basis of one-on-one tutorial sessions, and can take any appropriate form: verse, prose or drama. The course is varied with literary games and exercises, ranging from free expression to highly structured fieldwork and research.

The poet Keats said "That which is creative must create itself" and this course has been developed with that in mind. Students are invited to become involved with the curriculum to the degree that their contributions can influence the outcome of the course.

Assessment Process

Assessment is continuous and will enable a variety of skills to be measured.

All work must be word-processed. One of the theoretical pieces and one of the practical pieces will be completed in the classroom, under examination conditions.

A short thesis (approximately 5000 words) will be required at the end of the course.

All of the work produced will be gathered together in a portfolio which will contain records of research.

Assessment criteria

DISTINCTION

Grade A

Excellent knowledge and understanding of theory, and congruent facility in its application. Shows independent judgement and original thinking, together with an ability to make new and convincing connections. Excellent organisation. Evidence of emerging personal style.

CREDIT

Grade B

Good knowledge and understanding, showing ability to analyse and use evidence. Beginnings of independent judgement. Mostly relevant, but some minor lapses and lack of clarity. Good organisation of material and effective sequencing of ideas. Good range of appropriate analysis. Use of appropriate academic language.

MERIT

Grade C

Satisfactory knowledge and understanding. Some ability to analyse and use evidence. Attempts to evaluate but treatment often too superficial. Satisfactory organisation of material. Limited range of appropriate analysis.

PASS

Grade D

Some knowledge and understanding but significant omissions. Shows limited ability to analyse and use evidence. Some attempt to construct an argument. However, lacks ability to argue meaningfully or make significant connections.

FAIL

None of the criteria listed below met.