



Community Education Summer 2024

Creative Writing for the Absolute Beginner

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Course Description:

Creative Writing for the Absolute Beginner is the class you've been wanting to take. Have you ever promised yourself that you would "someday" write a book of fiction, a young adult book, or romantic historical fiction? What about the short story sitting in your mind and wanting to be told, but you don't know how to begin? This class will provide you with the foundational skills to write creatively for any number of applications. We will share our stories as we create a portfolio of inventive and original works of fiction that will impress your family and friends.

Learning Outcomes: *As a result of taking this course, students will:*

Outcome #1: Discuss fiction and their design.

Outcome #2: Identify the theme, structure, and what makes a good title

Outcome #3: Demonstrate effective storytelling

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Thursday, July 11, 2024: Creating characters

Week 2: Thursday, July 18, 2024: Story Structure and outlines

Week 3: Thursday, July 25, 2024: How to Write Dialogue

Week 4: Thursday, August 1, 2024: Setting up writing routines and discussing self-publishing

Selected Bibliography/Resources:

Below, you will find recommended references and books to give you more information about effective writing and storytelling. If you have a special interest in a topic we discuss, please ask me for further references.

- **It Was the Best of Sentences, It Was the Worst of Sentences by June Casagrande**
- **Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott**
- **Steering the Craft by Ursula K. Le Guin**
- **Craft in the Real World by Matthew Salesses**
- **Comedy Writing Secrets by Mel Helitzer**
- **Save the Cat! Writes a Novel by Jessica Brody (based on the books by Blake Snyder)**

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes, the email will be delivered to your “junk mail,” but we can assure you it’s from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation, please email Continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.

Inclement Weather:

If the College cancels due to icy conditions, you can find this on the college website: www.clark.edu. If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous, we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case, you will receive both a phone call and an email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

More class information:

We will be writing, so please bring anything you need to do some “free write” during class, such as a computer, paper and pen/pencil, or iPad. We will also share our writing with each other if you feel comfortable doing so. This class will be a safe space for honing your writing skills and sharing rough drafts.

You will be provided with handouts to help you organize your stories and ideas. If you’d like to bring a notebook to gather them, please feel free.

These are the first questions I will ask in the first class: 1) Who is your favorite author? 2) How long have you been writing/have wanted to learn how to write? 3) When you write, where do you like to write (coffee shop, library, front room, bed, the south of France?)

I can’t wait to meet you!

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage: www.clark.edu/cce/