after:hours Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication

**Course Descriptor**

**Course Title:** Creative Writing: Short Stories and First Chapters

**Type of Course:** Adult Education

**Credit:** Not credit bearing

**Weekly Session Titles and Descriptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Weeks | Session Title | Description |
| 1 - 10 | **Creative Writing Practical Workshops** | In the first session the group will get to know each other and we will explore your aims and aspirations in writing. From there, we will begin to discuss the practical and technical aspects of producing compelling narratives: finding the centre (finding our voice and identifying stories to tell), character development and consistency, narrative structure and plotting, world-building (evoking time and place), planning and improvisation, and more. Through discussion of published short stories and brief extracts from great novels and books on the craft, we will examine the key elements that combine to produce outstanding writing.Brief in-class writing exercises will help you to develop your writing skills in general and will inspire and augment your work in progress. As we move further into the course, we will begin to discuss the central piece of writing (1,000-2,000 words in length) that is emerging from each member of the class. These workshops take place in a positive and supportive atmosphere, and are hugely valuable to the writing process as a whole.Centred around discussion, and exploring both the practical and technical sides of producing excellent writing, *Short Stories and First Chapters* is suitable for both beginners and writers with some experience of life writing and/or fiction. |

|  |
| --- |
| Course OverviewEveryone has a story to tell, whether a work wholly of the imagination or something developed from the experience of life.On this course we will take you on a journey to find or further develop ways to express your ideas in writing, either in the form of a short story or a passage from a longer piece of work.Our creative writing course seeks to educate the imagination and equip you with the technical and practical know-how to fulfil your writing aims. On this interactive, discussion-centred course, teaching is delivered in a friendly and guided environment offering the necessary positive and constructive criticism appropriate to the emerging work of each member of the group. The sessions will be further supported by short extracts from great works of fiction and books on the craft, drawn from a diverse community of writers.Required Previous Experience (if any)No previous experience is necessary.Required Reading Material or Special Equipment Needed (if any)There is no set reading list, but you might be interested in these publications on the craft:*The Writers' & Artists' Yearbook*- includes an article by your course tutor:*'How creative writing courses benefit a writer'.*(London: Bloomsbury, 2023, 2024, 2025)Ailsa Cox, *Writing Short Stories*(London: Routledge, 2016)John Mullan, *How Novels Work*(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008)Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*(London: Doubleday, 1994)Learning OutcomesAt the end of this course you will have:1. produced a written piece of between 1,000-2,000 words which will take the form of a self-contained short story or a chapter of a novel or memoir;
2. identified, or further developed, ideas towards the production of a piece of writing;
3. explored key writing techniques, methods and forms that relate to your own interests and skills as a writer.

**Possible Further Study**Further courses on the after:hours programme might be useful to you.Additional informationThis course descriptor may be subject to change during the delivery of the course, depending on the specific direction and nature of the learner cohort, and is intended to be responsive to the group dynamics as they emerge during the delivery of the course. |