

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

### WE6434 CREATIVE WRITING FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor: HELEN M WALTERS

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER – SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER

#### ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course is aimed at people who want to write, but aren't quite sure what, or who would like to try something different. We will cover a variety of different kinds of creative writing during the course. Are you a poet who doesn't know it? Are you bursting with stories to tell and don't know how to begin? Do you have life experiences you want to get down on paper? What do you need to know if you want to write scripts?

The course will combine discussion, group activities, writing exercises and critical reading to help you find the right genre and form of writing for you. There will be an opportunity to work on short pieces of your choice during the course.

We'll look at fiction in its many forms and also at how you can use your own life experiences in non-fiction writing. The course will start with how to get inspiration for your writing, and then look at different ways of expressing your ideas.

There will be an emphasis on enjoying the process of writing and being imaginative. You will be encouraged to look widely for sources of inspiration and to experiment with different styles of writing.

By the end of the course you will be able to identify and understand different sorts of writing and know which ones are for you. You will be able to look ahead at other avenues for your writing, including possible publication if you wish.

PLEASE NOTE: non-residential students requiring dinner for Saturday night (as there is an evening session) can book this in advance with the Bookings Office or on arrival with Reception.

#### LEVEL: BEGINNERS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to go back to basics and would like a structured introduction to a subject

#### ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Helen M Walters (formerly Helen M Hunt) writes short stories and features for magazines. Her short stories have appeared in *Woman's Weekly*, *My Weekly*, *The Weekly News*, *People's Friend* and *Take a Break Fiction Feast*. Her articles about writing have appeared in *Writing Magazine*, *Writer's Forum* and *The New Writer*; and she teaches short story writing.

#### TIMETABLE:

##### Arrival day: Friday 30 September

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – <b>attendance is an essential part of the course.</b>

##### Other days: Saturday 1 October

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue

**Other days continued: Saturday 1 October**

12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
7.00pm	Dinner
8.15pm	Evening working: please see detailed course timetable below.

**Departure day: Sunday 2 October**

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

## DETAILED COURSE TIMETABLE:

Day	Time	Session	Content
Friday	19h00–20h00	Dinner	<i>Introductions</i>
Friday	20h00–21h00	Session 1	What do I want to write?  An introductory session in which we will talk about all the different kinds of creative writing there are, and what you are most interested in.
Day	Time	Session	Content
Saturday	9h15–10h30	Session 2	Genre and Form  An opportunity to discuss further the categories of creative writing and think about what genre (Romance? Crime? Etc) and what form (short story? Novel? Etc) appeals the most. You might be surprised how many there are!
Saturday	11h00–12h30	Session 3	Introduction to Fiction  An interactive session using techniques that will help to get you started in fiction. We will look at where ideas for stories come from, and how we turn ideas into plots.
Saturday	14h00–15h30	Session 4	Further Fiction  In this session we will practise writing techniques and exercises that will help you learn how to make the most of your fiction writing. There will also be free writing time.
Saturday	16h00–17h30	Session 5	Non-fiction Writing – Nostalgia  Have you ever wanted to write your life story? Or the history of your family? In this session we'll explore ways of digging into our past and writing about it in an engaging way. There will also be free writing time.
Saturday	20h15–21h15	Session 6	Non-fiction Writing – Real Life  What matters to you about your life now? In this session we'll look at all the things going on in our lives now that we could write about. A short writing exercise will encourage you to write a letter to a magazine or newspaper.

Day	Time	Session	Content
Sunday	9h15–10h30	Session 7	Having Fun With Words – Poetry  We'll look at a variety of different types of poetry and learn how to identify them. Exercises will demonstrate how different sorts of poetry work, and you will have a go at writing a short poem.
Sunday	11h00–12h30	Session 8	Specific Writing Techniques  We'll look at script writing and adaptations, twist stories, ghost stories and more in this session. There'll also be a chance to put forward questions for the last session.
Sunday	14h00–15h30	Session 9	Where Shall I Go With My Writing Next?  In this session we'll look at editing your work and preparing it to submit for publication if desired. We'll also look at markets for your work and do some goal setting for the future.

### MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

### Please bring with you:

Laptop, if you have one (students also have access to PCs in the IT Suite or College Library)

Notebook

Pencil

Pen

### HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to the teaching spaces in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.