

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

WE6602 WRITING FICTION – DEVELOPING CHARACTER AND PERSPECTIVE

Tutor: ISABEL ASHDOWN

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER

### ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Whether you are planning to write short stories or longer works of fiction, this weekend course will focus on the central features of character and point of view.

Through group discussion, analysis of character using examples from contemporary and classic fiction and a series of creative writing exercises, you will be encouraged to mine the depths of your characters – to understand their motivations, their hopes and fears – to ultimately develop rounded, believable protagonists with stories to tell.

While group discussion is a core part of the weekend, you can be reassured that you will only be expected to share as much or as little as you are comfortable with. The aim of the weekend is to inspire and develop your writing confidence in a friendly and inclusive environment.

You will experiment with point of view, to encourage you to explore the different effects and meanings that can be achieved through varied perspectives. There will be opportunities for independent writing, and it is hoped that by the end of the weekend you will know how to write with greater confidence and insight into the power of character and perspective, having brought your own characters into clearer focus on the page.

### LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

### ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Isabel Ashdown is a novelist and creative writing tutor. Her debut *Glasshopper* won the Mail on Sunday Novel Competition and was listed among the best books of the year by the Observer and the London Evening Standard. She has a Masters in Creative Writing and was recently Writer in Residence at the University of Brighton. Her latest novel *Flight* was released in 2015.

### TIMETABLE:

#### Arrival day: Friday 25 November

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> Isabel will give a brief introduction and kick off the weekend with a quick-fire writing exercise. This will be an opportunity for students to meet and consider their personal goals for the weekend – above all it will be a relaxed, enjoyable hour of conversation and writing.

#### Other days: Saturday 26 November

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

**Other days continued: Saturday 26 November**

12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored

**Departure day: Sunday 27 November**

(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

**REQUIRED PREPARATION:**

- 1) In preparation, you are asked to identify a fictional character you admire eg Heathcliff in Wuthering Heights. Please identify a short section that you feel best illustrates your character, and consider the writing features that help to convey that character eg dialogue, description.
- 2) Try to arrive with your own character in mind. This could be a character you are already working on, or someone new and as yet undeveloped. However, if you're struggling with this, we can help you find your character once we get started!

**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.

**Available from the Shop:**

Notebooks/paper  
Pens/pencils

**Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:**

Laptop/tablet (optional)  
Your chosen work of fiction (detailed above)

**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 this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.