

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE07940 WRITE A SHORT STORY

Tutor: JOHN O'DONOGHUE

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 22 JUNE – SUNDAY 24 JUNE

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

On this course you will learn how to write short stories that will catch the eye of magazine editors, literary agents, and publishers. We shall explore key elements of effective short stories, including openings and endings; character creation; settings; dialogue; description; and overall construction. By scrutinising some classic examples of the form you shall come to a better understanding not only of how short stories work but how they achieve their effects.

Through a series of exercises you will learn how to approach writing short stories in ways that will maximise the impact of your writing, and develop your writing skills. By understanding the short story you will open up exciting new possibilities for your own work.

By the end of the course you will have completed a story, and gained confidence in your writing. There will also be opportunity to explore publications, competitions, and publishers sympathetic to short stories that you can follow up after the course.

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:

John O'Donoghue is the author of a memoir, *Sectioned: A Life Interrupted* (John Murray, 2009). *Sectioned* was awarded Mind Book of the Year 2010. He also has published two poetry collections with Waterloo Press: *Brunch Poems* (2009) and *Fools & Mad* (2014). His short stories have appeared in *The Irish Post*, *The London Magazine*, *Aesthetica*, *Stinging Fly* (Ireland), *The Frogmore Papers*, and various other publications. His short story 'Translation' was Highly Commended in the Sean O'Faolain Short Story Competition 2006 and 'The Irish Short Story That Never Ends' won the 2016 Irish Post Creative Writing Competition. He holds a PhD in Creative Writing and has lectured at a range of UK universities.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 22 June

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 – attendance is an essential part of the course. An icebreaker class in which students will get to know one another, and consider the basic shapes of short stories. At this session students will be given a short cut to constructing stories as a way into working on their own stories over the next couple of days.

Other days: Saturday 23 June

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

(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

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:

Notebook
Pen/pencil

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.