SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE08553: TABOO – WRITING AND SENSE OF PLACE

Tutor: MARIAN GARVEY

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 1 MARCH – SUNDAY 3 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

VS Pritchett says a short story should capture a character at 'bursting point'.

Remember crossing that threshold? The staff room at school, your parent's bedroom, the school bike sheds. There are many taboo places which evoke characters, actions, feelings that a writer can use to create risk for the character and the writer. On this course you will explore how it creates desire and complication in a story. How it makes the story shift along.

Working collaboratively and individually, you will take inspiration from a range of sources including memory, texts, photographs, West Dean interiors and gardens and learn how to use Taboo to create pressure and dilemma for your character in a setting. Through a series of exercises you will explore what Taboo is; notions of place, character, feelings and action; and begin to develop your own ideas.

There will be more in-depth writing exercises building up a sense of the character and their part in the wider narrative. You will also consider:

Risk taking in writing.
Development of the narrative
Crossing thresholds.
How to use setting to reveal the mental landscape of the character.
How to keep the story alive.
The accuracy of thought and emotion.
What is at stake.

The tutor will support you throughout with reviews, discussions, advice and recommendations for further reading to develop your writing skills.

By the end of the course you will have explored the taboo and sense of place, and created a piece of writing where the world is *"emotionally complex and holds the power of fascination and shame"*-Alison Macleod.

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:

Marian Garvey, BA (Hons.) Drama (Dartington College of Arts); MA Creative Writing – Distinction – (University of Sussex) won First Prize in The Asham Award 2007 and was shortlisted for several others; published in several magazines including The Sunday Times and The London Magazine; broadcast on BBC Radio 4; her most recent radio commission was *A Rye Boy.*

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 1 March

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner

Arrival day continued: Friday 1 March

7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – **attendance is an essential part of the course**. Outline of the course. Looking at some initial texts. Warm up writing exercise on risk taking in writing.

Other days: Saturday 2 March

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 3 March

(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, please vacate teaching space by 3.30pm
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
Pens/pencils
Laptop, if you have one (students also have access to PCs in the IT Suite or College Library)

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.