

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE08353: WHAT SUCCESSFUL WRITERS DO AND WHY

Tutor: MARIAN GARVEY

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

'The muse has to find you working' – Picasso

On this course you will look at the craft of a writer, how to work at and develop a piece of fiction writing so that it moves from an initial spontaneous response to a prompt, to a carefully considered work.

'All good fiction is yearning.' – Robert Olen Butler

You will start with writing exercises using a variety of stimuli including memory, news, photographic prompts, objects, the environs of West Dean College and gardens to initiate ideas, and more importantly encourage playfulness so that you first learn to shake off your internal censor. This will allow you to take the essential risks you need to learn as a writer in order to produce characters that take risks and therefore reveal themselves especially under pressure. This unfolding of the character will drive your plot. You will learn to craft and edit so that you develop their yearning or desire giving them an emotionally complex world and setting that is authentic.

'Fiction is a temporal art' – Claire Keegan

The action must move forward paragraph by paragraph. You will learn what it means to invite the reader in, over the threshold. Through the examination of texts, your own included, you will explore what makes a text sing and bounce carrying the reader along as well as becoming aware of the common pitfalls that make a piece slow such as explanation, static, analysis and statement.

By the end of the course you can expect to have a deeper understanding of what makes a piece of fiction work and one or several pieces of writing of your own that you can develop, using the tools and approach that have been outlined during the course.

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

Skills development. For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills. The focus is on further developing and building of skills working towards independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Marian Garvey, BA (Hons.) Drama (Dartington College of Arts); MA Creative Writing (Distinction, University of Sussex), First Prize in The Asham Award 2007 and shortlisted for several others. Her stories have been published in several magazines including The Sunday Times, The London Magazine and broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Marian's most recent radio commission was *A Rye Boy*. A visiting lecturer on the MA in Creative Writing at West Dean College, she also teaches on the Work, Write, Live series at Brighton University, and runs Presentation Skills and Confidence Building workshops.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 23 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 – attendance is an essential part of the course. Introductions. Through discussion identify areas of interests that students are looking to work on and develop. A writing exercise.

Other days: Saturday 24 November

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 25 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, please vacate teaching space by 3.30pm
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Read *Foster* by Claire Keegan.

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

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.