

Creative Writing

From writing novices to seasoned journalists...

Our creative writing course participants have gone on to publish novels, feature articles, travel guides, short stories, histories and essays – hardly surprising when you consider that our presenters include some of Australia's finest writers. If you want to learn from the best in a lively, hands-on learning environment, take a close look at our summer selection of writing courses. For full details, including course outlines and presenter profiles, visit www.cce.usyd.edu.au/writing

Creative writing workshop

Anna Maria Dell'oso

This practical class uses exercises to get your writing started. Topics include character development, dialogue, point of view, structure, editing and how to make your story come alive on the page. This workshop, taught by well-known Australian writer, journalist and critic, Anna Maria Dell'oso, will be an invaluable way to find your voice as a writer. 6.30pm - 8.30pm Tuesdays from 29 January 6 meetings \$325 Course 08SCW0582 🗓️👤

*Anna Maria Dell'oso is a well-known Australian writer, journalist and critic. Her acclaimed book **Songs of the Suitcase** won the Steele Rudd Award, and her opera *Bride of Fortune* won a Pater Award for best libretto for an Australian musical. She is currently writing a novel, *Beating Time*, and a memoir of her Italian poet mother, *And Yet I Would Like to Relive Those Years*.*

"Writing is too valuable a form of creativity to be left to the professionals," she says. "I enjoy sharing the art and craft of writing with anyone who wants to learn. In my classes I aim to strike a balance between the practical, fun and instinctive and the discipline of learning new writing skills – always in a supportive environment, of course."



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Based on a true story

Dr Gabrielle Carey

'Based on a true story' is a powerful promotional phrase used to sell books and films. Fact is indeed often stranger and more intriguing than fiction, and in many ways non-fiction is easier to write because the characters and plot are ready-made! This course is for people who want to write true stories in a convincing style. Classes will consist of discussion and writing exercises. There will also be opportunities to workshop your writing and receive feedback.

10.00am – 12.00pm Wednesdays from 23 January
6 meetings \$325 Course 08SCW714 🗓️👤

The art of the essay

Dr Gabrielle Carey

What do George Orwell, Virginia Woolf, Joan Didion, David Malouf and Jonathan Franzen have in common? They are all essayists whose essays have had a profound influence. Insightful, individual and often funny, the essay has been described as 'the freest form of all literature'. Through the use of exercises and carefully selected examples, you'll learn how to combine personal experiences, observations and ideas while working on your own contribution to this great tradition. Who knows? You may end up in *The New Yorker*.

6.30pm – 8.30pm Thursdays from 24 January
6 meetings \$325 Course 08SCW1072 🗓️👤

Life writing

Patti Miller

This course on creative autobiographical writing will explore how to shape your experience into a well-written, absorbing story. It offers inspiration, discussion, reading and practical lessons in autobiographical writing. By its completion you will have made a substantial start on your life story and you'll have the confidence and techniques to continue.

10.00am – 12.00pm Fridays from 25 January
8 meetings \$395 Course 08SCW1181 🗓️👤

Travel writing

Margo Daly

Take a practical approach to travel writing with an experienced author and editor whose work includes writing for the renowned *Rough Guides* series of travel books. This course will give you an overview of the market – from writing for guidebooks, newspapers, magazines and literary journals to full-length book proposals. You'll learn the value of gathering significant details to recreate place and atmosphere vividly for readers, and the importance of a narrative focus.

9.30am – 4.30pm Saturdays 2 & 9 February
2 days \$350 Course 08SCW0611 🗓️👤

Short story writing

Rosie Scott

This course is suitable for writers at all stages of development who want to learn the art of short story writing. You'll learn techniques and practical exercises to apply to your writing instantly, how to publish your work, and how to deal with the dreaded writer's block. The workshops will also include class discussion and individual evaluation, and will look at some of the world's great short story writers. An inspirational workshop led by an internationally acclaimed Australian writer.

6.30pm – 8.30pm Wednesdays from 23 January
6 meetings \$325 Course 08SCW1062 🗓️👤

Creative writing workshop weekend

Marele Day

Take a creative break and spend two days with award-winning author Marele Day. Through discussion and practical exercises this course will examine the basic elements of fiction, with particular attention to creating believable characters, bringing them to life on the page and structuring and mapping their story. If you're finally ready to write that book or poem, this is a terrific way to get started.

9.30am – 4.30pm Saturday and Sunday 16 & 17 Feb
2 days \$350 Course 08SCW197 🗓️👤

Writing the book! A workshop for family historians and beginner writers

Dr Noeline Kyle

You are well on the way with your research and you have some ideas about the kind of family history you want to write and publish. But still you hesitate! Would you like some strategies, templates, guidelines and practical help to begin writing, shaping and putting your research into a book? Well, this workshop is for you. Come along and develop the practical skills, confidence and motivation to write that book!

10.00am – 4.00pm Saturday 23 February
1 day \$220 Course 08SCW1151 🗓️👤

Writing gym

Anna Maria Dell'oso

Haven't written a creative word since Year 6? Putting off writing your novel/family history/memoirs/HSC major work? Start getting some words down in the present tense! Try this new come-as-you-are writing class, where you'll stretch your writing muscles and hone your imagination on a series of writing workouts from slow and meditative to fast and furious. We'll use music, slides, pictures, themes and meaningful objects to trigger spontaneous writing in short timed bursts where the only rules are: keep your pen on the page, write steadily and don't look back.

6.30pm – 8.30pm Thursdays from 31 January
6 meetings \$325 Course 08SCW1161 🗓️👤

The art of interviewing

Siobhán McHugh

Michelangelo believed that a piece of marble already contained a work of art and his role was to liberate it. But the grace and beauty he saw in the stone that became David remained invisible to sculptors who had previously tackled it. In a similar way, the interview can be all or nothing to writers, researchers, journalists and oral historians. Let one of Australia's most celebrated oral historians teach you the techniques for effective interviewing, including research and preparation, essential do's and don'ts, how to handle difficult situations, transcription, editing, and privacy and ethical issues.

10.00am – 1.00pm Saturdays 16 & 23 February
2 meetings \$220 Course 08SCW1191 🗓️👤



*Siobhán McHugh is the author of five books based on oral history, including **The Snowy** and **Miniskirts**. She has recorded hundreds of life stories – of migrants and miners, tenants and tycoons, rebels and ratbags – and translated them into award-winning documentaries, books and articles. Siobhán's work has won the NSW Premier's Award for Non-Fiction and has been shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Award, a United Nations Media Peace Prize, a Eureka Science Award and a Walkley Award for Excellence in Journalism. Her interviews are archived at the National Library of Australia, the Mitchell Library and the ABC.*

Cover photograph: Denis Gibbons





Summer Intensive Program

The Women's College

Visiting Sydney? Should you require residential accommodation during this week, contact The Women's College on 9517 5000 or visit www.thewomenscollege.com.au

Creative writing workshop week

Dr Mark Tredinnick

This practical and inspiring course, held in the cool and elegant setting of The Women's College, is for anyone who wants to kickstart, or deepen, their writing. Take a break this summer and share daily writing exercises and the company of other apprentice writers, hear some bright ideas about writing beautifully, and enjoy champagne on the lawns and a night of readings from Australia's finest writers.

10.00am – 1.00pm Monday 4 to Friday 8 February
5 meetings \$465 Course 08SCW1171 ☕👤

Novel writing masterclass

Kathryn Heyman

So you've got an idea for a novel, written some short stories, done a creative writing workshop, perhaps even had a story published. What now? Looking at the crucial ingredients for fine fiction, Kathryn will give you feedback on your work and techniques for generating new material and getting to grips with structure. Attend champagne readings and surprise yourself with your inventiveness. Be reminded that writing is not a forbidding task but a joy!

1.30pm – 5.30pm Monday 4 to Thursday 7 February
4 meetings \$465 Course 08SCW1012 ☕👤

Literature



A page from the 1831 edition of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

Frankenstein: The novel, the myth and the cultural legacy

Dr Will Christie

In *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, 18-year-old Mary Shelley created one of the most formative myths of the modern world, making it arguably the most reproductive novel ever written – which is entirely appropriate for a myth of reproduction. Sydney University lecturer Will Christie offers an exhaustive journey through this unlikely masterpiece, starting with its origins in Romantic culture and in the life of its author, through its myriad popular reincarnations on the 19th-century stage and in 20th-century cinema, to a serious reassessment of its virtues as a novel. Or is it a myth? Either way, we will recover *Frankenstein's* significance for its contemporary audience.

10.00am – 4.00pm Saturday 9 February
1 day \$125 Course 08SLT821 🎧👤



Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*

Dr Ray Younis

The Name of the Rose is a murder mystery, a meditation on signs, names and meaning, truth, love and the tension between science and religion, or faith and reason. We dissect its labyrinthine structures, its style and central themes, the influence of Joyce, Borges and Ockham (among others) on the writing, and the tension between orthodoxy and heresy. We explore why this work, written by an internationally renowned professor of semiotics, became an international bestseller, and we look at its influence on contemporary writers such as Salman Rushdie, AS Byatt, Peter Carey and Toni Morrison.

10.00am – 4.00pm Saturday 23 February
1 day \$125 Course 08SLT831 🎧👤

Australian gothic

Dr Greg McLaren

Ranging from colonial-era stories, through Patrick White and Judith Wright, to such contemporary writers as Sonya Hartnett and Tim Winton, Greg McLaren explores the gothic presence in Australian writing. Elusive, threatening and prophetic, the gothic adapts to any cultural environment. Haunting a dark, unsettling place in our literature, it presents a vision that is both universal and uniquely Australian, speaking to and from our anxieties, history and culture, and warns us of the future.

6.30pm – 8.30pm Mondays from 4 February
4 meetings \$155 Course 08SLT841 🎧👤

English literature

Dr Fiona Morrison (convener)

This is an introductory course to English poetry, drama and prose. Through the close consideration of a range of texts and contexts, you will develop skills in critical analysis, and in oral and written communication. The course also aims to foster an enjoyment in literature. This course is part of the University Preparation Course program and includes assessment.

1.00pm – 3.00pm Tuesdays from 4 March
25 meetings \$750 Course 08YUC0730 ⚙️
or 6.30pm – 8.30pm Tuesdays from 4 March
25 meetings \$750 Course 08YUC0731 🌙

NEW

- ☾ evening course
- 🕒 day course
- ⚙️ lecture-based
- 👤 hands-on
- 🔄 refreshments
- 🍽️ lunch served

Travel with us

Writing retreat in Shimla with Sue Woolfe and Judy Tenzing

28 June – 12 July 2008

Set in the Himalaya, Shimla combines a rich and diverse history with extraordinary natural beauty. This 15-day writing retreat allows you to run away and write the story that's always been on your mind. Curl up in a deep armchair to watch the monsoon mists drifting past, wander for inspiration in oak and pine forests or stroll through markets of Himalayan curios, while learning the craft of fiction writing from award-winning writer Sue Woolfe. Sue's workshops are for beginners as well as those who have already begun to write. In this inspirational setting, you'll learn techniques to use your imagination in ways you may never have done before.

For further information please call the Travel team on 9036 4790 or email cce.studytours@usyd.edu.au

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