CREW103: Creative Writing

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CREW103 is taught through two lectures and one seminar/workshop per week.

This course will aim to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of apprentice writers; it will enhance their command and enjoyment of the craft. It will approach literature as something made by an individual out of their experience, imagination and knowledge in a process of continuous reshaping and discovery. Students will be encouraged to experiment with different forms and approaches in order to develop their individual strengths as writers of poetry, prose or drama.

Lectures are structured to provide insight into a syllabus of key skills, techniques and approaches to writing poetry, prose fiction and drama. Workshop exercises are tailored to reflect on the content of the weekly lectures and put these skills, techniques and approaches into practice.

The first term will expose students to the basic elements of the craft of prose and poetry. The students will be encouraged to explore these topics in their own writing through generative exercises in the lectures (which they may also then present in the weekly workshops). The students work on drafting and redrafting their writing for workshops as well as developing a proposal for a project in the second term.

The second term introduces writing for screen and other media. There is also a series of lectures where staff engage with approaches to their own writing. In the workshop in the second term, the students discuss in detail each others’ works-in-progress, developing critical and editorial skills and insight into the writing process. These are then applied to their own as well as their peers’ work. The third term helps to facilitate this by deepening the exploration of certain topics (such as genre) in lectures.

**COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

This course seeks to enable the students' development as writers through the discussion of core issues in Creative Writing combined with detailed critical engagement with their own and others' work.

Throughout the course, a series of lectures will offer insight into issues such as plot construction, character development, and the use of poetic form. These lectures are combined with workshops in which new work is developed and refined through a number of different strategies. Workshops are fifty minutes long; whilst ensuring relevant coverage of the syllabus, tutors will tailor their workshops to the nature and interests of the group. Between them, the strands of the course will equip the successful student with a range of skills and knowledge which are essential to a writer's development, necessary for the study of Creative Writing at Part II, and transferable to other academic study and to the professional world beyond.
On successful completion of the course you will have:

- Awareness of the effects of language, tone and register
- Strategies for initiating new work
- A developing reflective awareness of individual practice
- Acquired appropriate terminology and key ideas in creative writing
- Awareness of professional and scholarly standards of presentation
- Awareness of genre and form
- Awareness of the reader/viewer/listener role
- Awareness of structural elements of writing
- Recognised the importance of reading in development of writing practice
- Awareness of the work of established writers on the subject of Creative Writing.

Skills

- The ability to engage in the creative process of writing and rewriting
- The ability to work independently and engage in group work
- The ability to read and respond to work in progress
- The use and understanding of form in a manner suited to individual practice and in critique of other writers' work.
- The ability to work to deadlines
- The ability to sustain ongoing critical engagement with complex written material
- The ability to present work in both oral and written forms.
- The ability to self-direct study.
- through the critical reflection, to begin the process of independent self-reflection on writing processes and practices as part of critical self-development

FURTHER READING (general):


McKee, Robert *Story: Structure, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting* (London: Methuen, 1999)


For further reading see lists provided in lectures and/or on Moodle.
ASSESSMENT

This module is assessed by 100% coursework, made up of two main assessments. The first assessment is due in at the start of Lent term and comprises of a 1000 word portfolio (12%), a 500 word reflection (4%) on the writing and workshop process and a 500 word project plan (4%) for the second assessment.

The second assessment, due in the summer term, comprises of a 4000 word portfolio (72%). This can be either poetry, prose or screenplay, prepared, workshoped and re-drafted in relation to weekly workshop groups during the course of term two and three. There will be a 1000-word reflective piece (8%), in which the student will consider their own development in terms of writing practice, working methods and literary form(s), drawing upon the work and feedback generated during the weekly workshops.

The two assessments are designed to support the transition of students into the degree by giving them summative assessment and feedback through the year. The focus on a variety of 'skills' in term one will enable the students to explore different writing techniques before embarking on an independent project.

Assessments should be handed in to the Part I essay box in the mixing bay in the Department of English. An electronic copy must also be submitted in the coursework folder in Moodle. All essays should follow the English Literature Style Sheet and should include a bibliography. Footnotes should be used to include full publication details for texts that are referenced.

You are advised to read carefully the section on plagiarism on the main university web pages http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/current-students/undergraduate-core-information/ and the Part I Handbook. You are reminded that material copied from the internet without acknowledgement is plagiarism.

ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION DATES

Assessment 1: due Friday 12.00pm (noon), week 11 (18th January 2019).
1000 words
500 words reflection
500 portfolio proposal

Assessment 2: due Friday 12.00pm (noon), week 25 (24th May 2019).
4000 words
1000 words reflection

Please see our Part I Online Guide for more information on CREW103 and the first year in English Literature & Creative Writing.