

MODULE: Creative Writing (course code BAJH-CR)

Griffith College Dublin – Journalism and Visual Media

Fall Semester

This module has no pre-requisites.

Introduction

The Creative Writing module explores the nature of creativity itself and the complimentary processes of structuring, editing and presenting work in a wide variety of media and genres.

Students will learn of the principle elements of dramatic narrative: conflict, character, contrast, movement, theme, dialogue, description and narration. The integrated approach of the course allows people to develop skills in the medium, or mediums, best suited to their talents, be it prose (short stories, novels), film, theatre or poetry. Just as different mediums require separate skills, individual genres such as crime, romance, fantasy and film-noir have their own imperatives, as have the categories of comedy writing and children's writing. The emphasis is on enabling students to fashion vibrant, individual writing styles.

Writers can enhance the narrative options available to them by learning from, rather than inadvertently repeating, previous discoveries. For this reason the module looks at significant turning points in literary history and at styles ranging from modernism to magic realism. There will be a special section on the business of dealing with agents and publishers, and producers for work in film, TV and theatre.

Module Aims

This module aims to enable the student to:

- Explore the nature of creativity itself and complimentary processes of structuring, editing and presenting work in a variety of media genres
- Learn of the principle elements of dramatic narrative: conflict, character, contrast, movement, theme, dialogue, description and narration.
- Adapt an integrated approach to develop skills in the medium, or mediums, best suited to their talents, be it prose (short stories, novels), film, theatre or poetry.
- Develop separate skills, from individual genres such as crime, romance, fantasy and film-noir which have their own imperatives, as have the categories of comedy writing and children's writing.
- Fashion vibrant, individual writing styles.

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Know how to structure and present novels, short stories, screenplays and theatre scripts.
- Have an enhanced knowledge of the history of narrative.
- Have a greater understanding of creative processes.
- Be familiar with the requirements of a variety of genres as well as comedy.
- Be familiar with professional industry standards.
- Have enhanced the colour, vibrancy and precision of their writing.

Indicative Module Content

Introduction

Exploration of the basic 'arc' structure of most narratives: exposition, conflict, climax, resolution, conclusion. Free writing exercise.

Angles and points of view in stories.

How the donning of a mask allows one both artistic and moral licence – and imposes responsibility. Exercise: writing in another voice.

Character delineation and development.

Dialogue. Dialogue writing exercise.

Themes.

Difference between themes and issues. Narrative arc exercise.

Genres.

Analysis of genres by Description and Function. Why certain genres are popular at a particular time; why others die away.

Writing for different media.

Particular strengths of Prose, Film, Plays, Radio. Adaptation from one media to another.

Comedy.

Origins and elements of comedy. Movement and structure in comedy.

Film.

Importance of the visual. Script presentation. Writing treatments.

Language and Style.

Rewriting and editing practices.

Historical Perspectives.

Greek origins of tragedy and comedy. Major developments over time e.g. modernism, post-modernism. Looked at in the context of developments in other artistic mediums.

Form and Content.

Relationship between form and content, structure and creativity. Implications of this relationship.

Industry Practices.

Approaching publishers, producers, agents.

Assessment

The module will be assessed by course work only (Continuous Assessment 100%). A number of assignments are to be submitted. The assignments will measure a student's writing ability in both fiction and non-fiction and will also consist of an academic assignment that will assess students understanding and analysis of material covered in the lectures.