

8/14/2008

Georgetown Library Writer's College Course Catalog



Fall 2008-Winter 2009 Class Schedule

Everything the Unpublished Writer Needs to Know but Is Afraid to Ask (one session) Sept. 8th

SciFi/Fantasy Initial Course (2 hour classes for 3 weeks) **Sept. 15, 22, 29**

Mystery Writing Initial course (2 hr class for 6 weeks) **Sept. 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21**

Writing the Short Story From Concept to Completion (2 hour classes for 4 weeks) **Oct. 2, 9, 16 & 23**

Poetry (2 hour classes for 2 weeks) **Oct. 13, 20**

Poisons (1 hour class) **Oct. 28 7:00 PM**

Forensics (1 hour class) **Oct. 28 8:00 PM**

Murder 101 (2 hour class) **Nov. 4**

How To Write A Synopsis (2 hour class) **Nov. 10**

Marketing for Fun and Profit--- To Market To Market (2 hour class) **Nov. 17**

Author in Residence Monday Dec. 1, 8, 15 at the library for questions and help

Memoir Writing (2 hour classes for 3 weeks) **Jan. 5, 12, 19 at Wesleyan at Estrella (2-4pm)**

Historical Nonfiction (2 hour classes for 3 weeks) **Jan. 6, 13, 20**

Romance Writing (2 hour classes for 4 weeks) **Jan. 15, 22, 29 Feb. 5**

Ready, Set - Publish! Self-Editing (2 hour classes for 3 weeks) **Feb. 9, 16, 23**

How to Start and Run a Critique Group (2 hour class) **Feb. 26**

Children's Writing-Preschool to Primary (2 hour classes for 3 weeks) **March 17, 24, 31 (2-4 PM)**

Write On: A Hands-on Workshop for Kids (2 half day classes)

Part I: Writing for middle grade readers (for kids 9-12 and adults writing for those ages) **April 18 1-4 PM**

Part II: Writing the young adult novel (for teens and adults who write for teens) **April 25 1-4 PM**

Unless noted all classes will be from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM at the library

Register for classes at the reference desk on the library's second floor.

Check the course description for tuition fees for each course.

Dates and times are subject to change.

Visit library.georgetown.org for more information

Introductory Courses

Everything the Unpublished Novelist Needs to Know but Is Afraid to Ask

Presenter: Joan Upton Hall and Sylvia Dickey Smith

Tuition: \$20

We will answer such questions as: How do I get an agent? Do I need an agent? Is fiction harder to write and sell than nonfiction? How much will I get paid? Is there such thing as a good rejection letter? My book doesn't really get interesting until the third chapter, is that okay? Should I send a picture of what I want the cover to look like? How do I get started? Do I need a computer? Why the typical excuses why you can't or haven't started writing don't hold water. How to bring the muse to you. Overcoming the fear of the blank page. Other questions you want to ask published authors. This one-day course is designed to answer your questions and provide an introduction to the other classes offered by the Georgetown Library Writer's College. The goal is to cut through the clutter and get down to the nuts and bolts of what you need to know to get your novel started. The class is for new or writers with works in progress.

Genre Writing Courses

Writing the Short Story: From Concept to Completion

Presenter: Joan Upton Hall

Tuition: \$30

The instructor guides you to examine what works in the stories of published writers as well as your own. You will create at least three story ideas and decide the best format, whether that is flash fiction or a longer story. We will cover the key elements of fiction, including plot, characterization, setting, point-of-view, and various story development techniques as well as publication markets. As you write an entire story, you will receive input from classmates and the instructor for revising and polishing. You will also get submission suggestions. The student's goal is to complete and polish at least one story of average length (or two flash fictions) and to have at least the rough drafts of two other stories.

Science Fiction

Presenter: Joan Upton Hall

Visit library.georgetown.org for more information

Tuition: \$30

Sci-Fi/Fantasy: Inventing Your Own World - Readers need to know, from paragraph #1, that they aren't in Kansas anymore --whether it's Middle Earth or a Galaxy Far-Far away. To cook up a different environment and society that holds together, you must consider all the ingredients. But with all your attention to this setting, how can your story and characters stand out as the dominant element? Find out what some of the experts have done--and WHY they chose an alternative world.

Mystery writing

Presenter: Sylvia Dickey Smith and David Ciambrone

Tuition: \$30

Nothing quickens the pulse faster than a good mystery, which is why millions of readers surrender themselves to the page-turning exploits of their favorite sleuths. Mystery is an expansive genre, welcoming amateur detectives, intellectual puzzle-solvers, policemen, private eyes, lawyers, spies, even average folk caught in a web of suspense. If crime is a central element, consider it a mystery. To write riveting mysteries, you must merge the skills of a fiction writer with the clever tricks of the mystery trade. In our courses, you will learn about the various types of mysteries and their special requirements, as well as fundamentals of fiction craft. Whether you seek to write short stories or novels, classic puzzlers or crime fiction, we'll show you how to capture readers. This is the lead in course for mystery writing.

Forensics

Presenter: David Ciambrone

Tuition: \$10

Planned topics include an overview of forensic science and police procedure; how to make forensic science work in your book; crime scene basics; overview of crime labs; death investigation basics; autopsies; psychology of crime; poisons and their detection; understanding DNA evidence; fingerprints; firearms evidence; the role of photography and videography in forensic work; interpretation of blood spatter; trace evidence; forgery; the role of jurisdiction in forensic procedures; entomology; science and the courtroom; and using warrants and searches.

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Murder 101

Presenter: David Ciambrone

Tuition: \$20

You are going to kill someone! How do you do it and what really happens when you kill the poor victim? You are a writer of mysteries and want to kill someone (on paper). How do you do the drastic deed? What do you use, how do you actually do it and what will the intended victim and murder site look like? How does the method you chose work? How fast will the victim die? Will there be a mess? All these are good questions, unless of course you've actually killed someone by the method chosen. The average mystery writer gets their murder instruction from movies and television. These sources are not known for their high degree of accuracy. They can even get the simple things wrong. Movies are made for visual entertainment and not necessarily to "gross-out" the viewer. There are exceptions. So, where does the mystery writer get his or her information? The answer is simple, from this seminar on Murder 101. Every would-be (fiction) murderer needs this seminar!

Poisons for the Mystery Writer

Presenter: David Ciambrone

Tuition: \$10

Writers love poisons. They really do. In fact they love them a great deal. Guns are noisy and messy. Knives are hard to use and bring the killer to close to the victim. Most don't have the fortitude for strangling and bludgeoning. But, a poison? Simply slip a bit into food or drink and walk away. No fuss, no muss. Poisons are simple and clean. Almost civilized. But, which poison should be used? How much and what happens to the victim? This class will help any mystery writer discover which poison to use, how much and what to may happen to the victim in an interesting and informative manner. Every would- be (fiction) murderer needs this seminar!

Historical Nonfiction

Presenter: Joan Upton Hall

Tuition: \$30

This course will help you decide your purposes: Long or short? Scholarly or conversational? Detailed or the backdrop to another aim (such as travel writing)? Plus organizational structure

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and other concerns. This class will not only give research suggestions, but also help you target your audience and show you what is the next step.

Romance writing

Presenter: Julie Kenner

Tuition: \$30

If you've ever thought about writing a romance novel, then you won't want to miss this multi-day workshop with bestselling author Julie Kenner. Covering the process from concept to marketing, students will actively participate in the workshop, with the goal of ending class with a solid outline and first chapter.

Participants will learn about both the business and creative side of publishing. We'll look at the process of taking a book from idea to the bookstore, with all the various stops in between (what an agent does, how the editorial process works, sales & marketing, cover art, copyedits, revisions, galleys, and a whole lot more). Our primary focus will be creative, and we'll delve into the mystery of how to develop an idea into a story that is going to grab the attention of readers. We'll discuss how to breathe life into characters, how to hook a reader, how to plot effectively, how to utilize story arcs and structure, how to self-edit, professional presentation, and more

Crafting Memoir from Memory

Presenter: Helen Nardecchia and David Ciambrone

Tuition: \$30

What is true and what do we create from our reminiscences? Beginning with the concept that memory is a particular angle of perception which shapes our sense of identity, we examine how the memories we tell establish our sense of self. It is not the factual truth of our memories that is necessary for crafting them into memoir but the emotional truth of our experience that begins to reveal the underlying patterns of our lives. In this workshop we look at the basic components of memoir writing and the self-reflection required to move a memory into the realm of memoir. Students should come prepared to write in class; there is an overnight assignment for those who wish to continue the in-class writing.

Creative Writing: Poetry

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Presenter: Carol Menchu and Jeanelle Bolton

Tuition: \$30

This workshop explores various trends in contemporary poetry as well as introduces participants to standard forms and meters of traditional poetry. Exercises and classroom critiques take students through the revision process with the goal of composing a number of poems. The course also includes discussion of craft and the creative process

Writing for Children & Young Adults

Writing for Children, Preschool - Primary Grades

Presenter: Linda Lipscomb

Tuition: \$30

How to approach writing books for children from preschool age through primary grades.

Write On: Hands-on Workshops for Kids

Presenter: Julie Kenner

Tuition: \$10 for each of two half-day workshops

Part 1: Writing for Middle Grade Readers (for kids age 9-12 & adults who write for this age)

This workshop is designed for young people who have stories begging to be told. Know a kid who's always scribbling a tale? This is the workshop for them.

Participants will learn about both the business and creative side of publishing. We'll look at the process of taking a book from idea to the bookstore, with all the various stops in between (what an agent does, how the editorial process works, sales & marketing, cover art, copyedits, revisions, galleys, and a whole lot more). Our primary focus will be creative, and we'll delve into the mystery of how to develop an idea into a story that is going to grab the attention of readers. We'll discuss how to breathe life into characters, how to hook a reader, how to plot effectively, how to utilize story arcs and structure, how to self-edit, professional presentation, and more.

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The workshop will be a combination of lecture and participation, with time to discuss individual ideas and brainstorm in groups. Prior to the workshop, participants will receive an email with suggested pre-work. While not mandatory, students completing the pre-work will likely get more out of the workshop.

Part 2: Writing the Young Adult Novel (for teens & adults who write for this age)

In a world where teens have access to everything from the Internet to the latest video games, how is it that the young adult (YA) novel is one of the fastest-growing and most flourishing genres in the fiction book market today? Teens are hungry for a different kind of interaction. This workshop focuses on developing the tools specific to writing the compelling fiction today's demanding YA audience craves. Students study various methods employed in published YA fiction and learn to shape characters, plot, and pacing in a voice that speaks to teen readers. Through weekly exercises and group critiquing, students build their book ideas into a complete outline and one polished chapter

Other Elements of Writing

How to Start and Run a Critique Group

Panelists: Joan Upton Hall, Sylvia Dickey Smith and David Ciambrone

Tuition: \$20

Discussion and handouts on how to begin and sustain a successful critique group.

Preparing a non-fiction book proposal that sells

Presenter: David Ciambrone

Tuition: \$30

There are a lot of nonfiction book ideas sent to publishers every day. Most get rejected and some actually obtain that coveted book contract. What makes the difference between the trash can and the contract? How does a perspective writer succeed in this sea of completion and the attention of overworked editors? The answer is a killer nonfiction book proposal. The keys to writing a proposal that has editor's hearts racing and wanting to sign you up is the well written book proposal. This seminar will address the secrets and structure of a nonfiction book proposal and

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how to put it together along with the secret weapon, the mysterious marketing plan. The techniques taught have been proven, with one book being sold within a half hour after the editor received the proposal

Marketing Your Work for Fun & Profit

Presenter: Sylvia Dickey Smith

Tuition: \$20

Gain hands-on concrete ideas on how to market your book and yourself, with activities that begin before your first book hits the street, and beyond. Learn how to get reviews, how to make your name known, and how to increase sales. Learn the best way to conduct book signings, book launch parties, websites and blogs.

Dressing up Your Novel for Market –Have a novel finished or in progress? Discover the steps of polishing it for structure, style, and mechanics; writing the synopsis; composing the "pitch" you give to agents and editors; how to look for agents, editors, and alternative publishing options. You will receive input from classmates and the instructor.

Ready, Set - Publish! Self-Editing

Presenter: Joan Upton Hall

Tuition: \$30

A how-to workshop for polishing before you submit for publication. Longer version also explores how to capture your best ideas and form.

How to Write a Synopsis

Presenter: Sylvia Dickey Smith

Tuition: \$20

The instructor gives you a recipe for conquering a task that many seasoned writers despise. Discover why agents and editors insist on having a synopsis and how to make it a power tool for selling your novel to a publisher. Bring writing material, and you'll come away with a start for creating your own.

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Instructors

Dr. David F. Ciambrone

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Dr. David Ciambrone is a retired scientist, Oceanographer, professor, US Treasury Commissioner and award winning, best selling author living in Georgetown, Texas. Dave writes a helpful hint newspaper column under the name "Ask Uncle Dave" for the Williamson County Sun. He has published ten books; five mysteries (another one is scheduled to be out in December 2008) and has also published three management books and a nonfiction reference book on poisons. Dave has been a requested speaker and seminar presenter at management and technical organizations, writer's groups/ leagues, schools and universities. Dave was a Professor at a California State Polytechnic University at Pomona and other universities. Dr. Ciambrone is President of the San Gabriel Writer's league.

Joan Upton Hall

www.joanuptonhall.com/books.htm

Former English teacher **Joan Upton Hall** is now a freelance author, editor, and speaker. Her manual, *Rx for Your Writing Ills* and column "Demystifying Writers' Demons," carried by various writer newsletters nationwide, have helped countless writers. Best known to *Williamson County Sun* readers for her column "Tank of Gas and a Whim," Joan has also published short stories and articles in magazines as diverse as *Texas Highways*, *American Jails*, and *ByLine*. Think that's a split personality? Her books run from historical nonfiction to urban fantasy and the paranormal. She is currently working on novel 3 of her trilogy, *Excalibur Regained*, but for the books already published, she offers sample chapters and more on her website.

Sylvia Dickey Smith

www.sylviadickeysmith.com

Sylvia Dickey Smith is a retired psycho-therapist. For several years, she served as an adjunct professor, worked in the field of rehabilitation and directed regional operations for a long-term-care facility. She is now a best selling author living in Georgetown, Texas with her husband Bill. She has published two mysteries that take place in south east Texas. Her books are in the Sidra Smart Series, *Deadly Sins - Deadly Secrets* and *Dance on His Grave*. She has another book in work. Sylvia leads a mystery critique group and is Vice President of Sisters in Crime.

Jeanell Buida Bolton, Ph.D.

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Published in poetry, short story, journalism

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Specializes in sonnets and limericks
Has taught creative writing on college level
Recognized as outstanding teacher
Ph.D. in linguistics from UT

Carol MacDonald Menchu

Carol MacDonald Menchu is an intuitive poet who puts down words as they fall into her head and who hopes these words give pause for thought while painting pictures for their readers.

Publications:

The Musing Mistress, a group of individual poems that make a story of love.

Beyond the Gate, a group of individual poems that make a dream.

The MacDonald House, the story of the house her Father built.

Ghostly Tales From America's Jails, the story An Army Of Ghosts - 1875

Various anthologies.

Three stories in an upcoming book about haunted Texas highways.

The Gabriel Writer, San Gabriel Writers' League newsletter, Editor and contributor.