

Creative writing for teachers

Start date Friday 15th April 2016 **End date** Sunday 17th April 2016

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Sarah Burton **Course code** 1516NRX093

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Sarah Burton

Sarah has been teaching Creative Writing since 2003 in a variety of contexts, from voluntary work in mental health centres and primary schools to professional tuition for the London School of Journalism, Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education (OUDCE) and Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education (ICE). Her publications are diverse, including two critically acclaimed biographies, *Impostors: Six Kinds of Liar* (2000; translated into Korean, Japanese, Czech and Spanish) and *A Double Life: a Biography of Charles and Mary Lamb* (2003; shortlisted for the Mind Book of the Year award); a children's book, *The Miracle in Bethlehem: A Storyteller's Tale* (2008), and a page-to-stage guide, *How to Put on a Community Play* (2011). She also writes short stories and reviews fiction and non-fiction for *The Spectator* and other titles. Her spoof, *The Complete and Utter History of the World By Samuel Stewart, Aged 9*, was published by Short Books in 2013. She was Writer in Residence for the Hosking Houses Trust in 2009 and the publication of the historical novel which she began there, *H*, was shortlisted for the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize 2013. She has also written and produced several community plays. Sarah's range of writing interests is reflected in her teaching. She has taught courses for OUDCE and ICE in Life Writing, Writing for Children, Playwriting, Flash Fiction and Writing Short Stories. She is Course Director of the MSt in Creative Writing at ICE.

Midge Gillies

Midge Gillies is a freelance journalist and the author of seven non-fiction books, including biographies of Amy Johnson and Marie Lloyd. In her most recent book, *The Barbed-Wire University* (Aurum Press, 2011) she explores what it was really like to be an Allied Prisoner of War in the Second World War. She is co-author, with Sally Cline, of *The Arvon Book of Literary Non-Fiction* which was published by Bloomsbury in 2012. She studied history at Girton College and has written for a range of national, international and regional newspapers and magazines. She was RLF Fellow at Magdalene College last year and has oversight of all Creative Writing courses at ICE.

John Mole

John Mole is a poet, librettist, children's author, and writer about jazz and film. For many years he co-edited for the Mandeville Press with its founder, Peter Scupham, has been Poet in Residence at Magdalene College, Cambridge (1996) and, since 1998, resident poet for Poet in the City. He has received Gregory and Cholmondeley Awards for his poetry and the Signal Award for an outstanding contribution to poetry for children. In 2009, a community opera he wrote with the composer Tom Wiggall received its premiere in St. Albans Cathedral. Most recent publications are – for children - *All the Frogs* (Salt) and a collection of poems, *The Point of Loss* (Enitharmon). He can be heard reading on The Poetry Archive (www.poetryarchive.org) from which a CD is available and is a long-standing and popular ICE tutor, leading courses on writing poetry.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	The unique nature of Creative Writing (Sarah Burton)
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Life writing (Midge Gillies)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Making characters, making plots (Sarah Burton)
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Poetry (John Mole)
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Writing through playing (Sarah Burton)
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Sharing strategies (Sarah Burton)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Moving forward (Sarah Burton)
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

Students will develop their ability to deliver creative writing as a subject by:

- engaging with a range of writing exercises which they can then use in their own classrooms;
- becoming more aware of how to create a classroom culture which can encourage creativity in writing.

Content:

The nuts and bolts of creative writing will be covered: genre; style and narrative voice; point-of-view; recruiting the reader; creating a sense of place; determining time and tense; developing character; dialogue; plot; creating drama; sustaining tension; maintaining pace.

Students will encounter a range of teaching styles as two classes are delivered by guest tutors who are also writers (Midge Gillies on life writing; John Mole on poetry). They will consider how different approaches to teaching Creative Writing are appropriate to different age groups and how mixed ability groups are managed. They will also engage in writing exercises designed to focus on specific aspects of Creative Writing, while gaining a deeper understanding of how these are all co-dependent. These exercises also help teachers understand the nature of the challenge that students face when we ask them to write.

Presentation of the course:

The prevailing atmosphere in the classroom is relaxed and mutually supportive while remaining focused. We will read some short examples of writing together and discuss them. We will do some exercises as individuals and some in groups. Tutors will share their teaching philosophies and strategies and demonstrate these. Students will be able to keep teaching materials and are free to use them in their own classrooms.

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Approach teaching Creative Writing with increased confidence and knowledge
- Create and develop their own class materials.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Ed. Steven Earnshaw	<i>The Handbook of Creative Writing</i>	Edinburgh University Press, 2007
Ed. David Morley & Philip Neilsen	<i>The Cambridge Companion to Creative Writing</i>	CUP, 2012
Rob Pope	<i>Creativity: Theory, History, Practice</i>	Routledge, 2005
R. Keith Sawyer	<i>Explaining Creativity: the science of human innovation</i>	OUP (2nd edition), 2012

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 04 April 2016