

Creative writing for teachers

Start date 16th February 2018**End date** 18th February 2018**Venue** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge**Tutor** Dr Sarah Burton**Course code** 1718NRX044**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings**For further information on this course, please contact** Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237**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.

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
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Writing through playing
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Making characters, making plots
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Voices
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Keeping it real
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Sharing strategies
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Moving forward
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 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 codependent. 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: 9th August 2017