



Write the One Percent: Creating Diverse, Inclusive Fiction

Start date	30 May 2020	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Lauren James	Course code	1920NDX220

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact The Centre for Creative Writing
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Tutor biography

Lauren James is the author of Young Adult science fiction, including *The Quiet at the End of the World*, *The Loneliest Girl in the Universe* and *The Next Together* series. She teaches creative writing for Coventry University and Writing West Midlands, and has written articles for numerous publications, including the Guardian, BuzzFeed, The Toast, and the Children's Writers and Artist's Yearbook. You can find her on Twitter at @Lauren_E_James or her website <http://www.laurenejames.co.uk>.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	The basics of diverse fiction
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Writing outside of your own experience
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Respectfully writing about sexuality and race in prose
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Discussing political and social issues in fiction
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- 1) To introduce the core concepts of diversity in writing, and explain why it is important for writers of all kinds to make their work inclusive
- 2) To define some of the most under-represented identities and explain the common pitfalls in writing about them
- 3) To guide students through the steps of researching an identity before writing, to make sure it is as accurate as possible

Content:

Session 1: The basics of diverse fiction – The first session will introduce the relevant terminology needed to understand what we mean when we talk about minorities, diversity and inclusivity. We will highlight the dangers of stereotyping and slurs, with examples of these which should be avoided. We will also discuss ‘token characters’ and intersectionality between BAME (Black, Asian, and minority ethnic), LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender), mentally ill and disabled characters. Examples of diverse writing and characters will be given through recommended reading to show how much depth and richness a new perspective and identity can bring to writing.

Session 2: Writing outside of your own experience – We will discuss the methods used by writers to research identities when writing, such as #ownvoices sensitivity readers and writing. We will work as a group to research and learn more about a chosen minority through online blogs, social media hashtags, YouTube videos and Goodreads reviews, as an example of how this can be done by writers for their work.

Session 3: Respectfully writing about sexuality and race in prose – This session will involve analysing examples of text taken from published work, and using them to discuss how to write respectful, realistic representation. Students will then have time to work individually on a diverse piece of writing based on the research done in the previous session.

Session 4: Discussing political and social issues in fiction – We will discuss the dangers of inaccurate representation, using case studies of authors who have faced consequences due to poorly researched writing. We will discuss some common criticisms given by reviewers about diversity, and students will then have an opportunity to edit their writing from the previous session, with a focus on improving the representation through further research to address issues.

Presentation of the course:

The course will include lectures, guided group discussions, activities based around extracts of text taken from fiction books and writing exercises.

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

- Feel confident in their ability to begin researching minorities for future projects
- Have a broader knowledge and context of the current social conversation surrounding representation in fiction
- Be more aware of representation in writing, and have an understanding of when the writing is successful in being inclusive

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
<u>Contemporary Fiction</u>		
Thomas, Angie	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	Walker Books, 2017
Dawson, Juno	<i>Proud</i> (anthology)	Stripes, 2019
Wang, Jen	<i>The Prince and the Dressmaker</i>	First Second, 2018
Okparanta, Chinelo	<i>Under the Udala Trees</i>	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015
Gino, Alex	<i>George</i>	Scholastic, 2015

Genre Fiction

Cho, Zen	<i>Sorcerer to the Crown</i>	Macmillan, 2015
Jemisin, N. K.	<i>The Fifth Season</i>	Orbit, 2015
Rowland, Alexandra	<i>A Conspiracy of Truths</i>	Saga Press, 2018
de Bodard, Aliette	<i>In the Vanisher's Palace</i>	Jabberwocky, 2018
Bardugo, Leigh	<i>Six of Crows</i>	Orion, 2016

Non-fiction

Eddo-Lodge, Reni	<i>Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race</i>	Bloomsbury, 2017
Nelson, Maggie	<i>The Argonauts</i>	Melville House, 2015
Various (anthology)	<i>The Bi-ble: An Anthology of Essays on Bisexuality</i>	Monstrous Regiment, 2017
Shukla, Nikesh	<i>The Good Immigrant</i> (anthology)	Unbound, 2016
Huxley-Jones, Lizzie	<i>Stim: An Autism Anthology</i>	Unbound, forthcoming
Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi	<i>Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions</i>	Knopf, 2017

Website addresses

<http://writingwithcolor.tumblr.com/>

<https://diversebooks.org/>

<https://lgbtqreads.com/category/authors-in-conversation/>

<http://blobolobolob.blogspot.com/2014/05/blogging-against-disablism-day-2014.html>

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

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: 21 November 2019