Undergraduate Certificate in Creative Writing: Creative Non-Fiction

2021 – 2022

Course code: 2122CCR101

COURSE GUIDE
Welcome to the Undergraduate Certificate in Creative Writing: Creative Non-Fiction, a University of Cambridge award offered by the Institute of Continuing Education (ICE). The Certificate is taught and awarded at FHEQ level 4 (i.e. first-year undergraduate level) and attracts 60 credits. The award is completed in one academic year. For further information about academic credit please see our website: http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/studying-with-us/information-for-students/qualifications-that-we-offer.

The course offers three termly units and a syllabus and reading and resource list for each of these units are included in this course guide.

The programme aims to:

1. introduce students to a wide range of different literary genres and styles in order to stimulate and develop their own creative writing skills;
2. provide opportunities for students to experiment with their own writing;
3. introduce students to the possibilities of transferring techniques between different genres;
4. build students’ confidence by demystifying the art of writing and encouraging students to establish their own working routine;
5. encourage students to contextualise their writing within a variety of traditions and genres.

**Transferable skills for further study and employability**

- The capacity for independent thought and judgement
- The development of independent learning, study and time management skills
- The deployment of skills in critical reasoning
- The development of competence in using IT to support one’s work
- The ability to work with others, productively and equitably
- The qualities necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility and the demonstration of high levels of motivation and personal commitment through part-time study

**Study hours**

The award of academic credit is a means of quantifying and recognising learning and within the UK, one credit notionally represents 10 hours of learning\(^1\). Each of the units in this course attracts 20 credits so students should expect to need to study for approximately 200 hours in total to complete each unit successfully. However, it is recognised that students study at different paces and use a variety of approaches, so this is a recommendation, rather than a hard-and-fast calculation.


**Teaching staff**

**Course Director**

Derek Niemann

Derek Niemann is a freelance writer and editor specialising in writing about place, and life writing. His non-fiction books include *Birds in a Cage* (Short Books, 2011), a true story about Prisoner of War birdwatchers in World War II; *A Nazi in the Family* (Short Books, 2015), based on the SS grandfather he never knew; and *A Tale of Trees: The Battle to Save Britain’s Ancient woodland* (Short Books, 2016). He is a country diary columnist for the *Guardian* and is also a prolific feature writer for various magazines. Formerly he was
children's magazines editor for the RSPB (1998-2014) and has written wildlife books for both children and adults, most of which he can’t remember.

Tutors

The course will be taught by a team of experienced tutors with teaching and research interests in diverse areas of critical and creative work. The most up-to-date lecture list for each unit including any guest lecturers will be published in the course’s Virtual Learning Environment. Tutors on this course will likely include:


**Miranda Doyle** is part of the Life Writing Team at the University of Cambridge Creative Writing Centre based at Madingley Hall. She also teaches memoir and life writing at the Faber Academy, and creative writing as part of Hills Road’s Sixth Form College Adult Education programme. She has a distinction in Creative and Life Writing from Goldsmiths University and led the Philosophy Department’s Autobiography: Self and Truth module for five years at Anglia Ruskin University. Her fascination with the form is longstanding, motivating classes that seek to explore a writer’s relationship with the page. Through her workshops she hopes to build a mutually supportive foundation for all her students through which they can develop meaningful relationships with one another, which will support them throughout their writing lives. Her memoir, *A Book of Untruths*, was published in June 2017 by Faber & Faber.

**Lucinda Hawksley** is the author of 15 books, including biographies of the artists Lizzie Siddal (André Deutsche, 2004), Princess Louise (Penguin, 2013) and Kate Perugini (Pen & Sword, 2018). Her other titles include *Elizabeth Revealed* (Scala Arts & Heritage Publishers, 2019), *Dickens and Christmas* (Pen & Sword, 2017), *The Writer Abroad* (British Library, 2017), *Charles Dickens and his Circle* (National Portrait Gallery, 2016), *Bitten by Witch Fever* (Thames & Hudson, 2016) and *March, Women, March: Voices of the Women’s Movement* (André Deutsch, 2013). She is a lecturer for the National Portrait Gallery, the Arvon Foundation and IES London; as well as being patron of the Charles Dickens Museum in London and of the De Morgan Foundation. Lucinda is a former Fellow of the Newberry Library in Chicago and a Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow. She is currently writing *Letters of Great Women* and *Dickens and Travel*.

He also contributes to a wide range of publications including the Sunday Times, Daily Telegraph and the Australian. He has taught creative writing courses for the Arvon Foundation and was a writing fellow for the Royal Literary Fund at the University of Bath from 2009-2011.

Jeremy has also worked in TV presenting, and runs cultural tours to Turkey.

**Administrative staff**

**Head of Academic Centre Administration:** Sarah Blakeney, Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge, CB23 8AQ, 01223 760865

**Academic Centre Co-ordinator:** Lisa Hitch, Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge, CB23 8AQ, 01223 746212

**Academic Centre Administrator:** Lorraine Silk, Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge, CB23 8AQ, 01223 746223

**Email:** creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk

**Institute of Continuing Education**

The Institute of Continuing Education's administrative headquarters are at Madingley Hall, an elegant country house built in the 16th century and set in gardens of about seven acres, designed in the 18th century by Capability Brown. Please visit [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) and [www.madingleyhall.co.uk](http://www.madingleyhall.co.uk) for further information.

**Contact details of ICE**

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University of Cambridge  
Madingley Hall  
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T: 01223 746222  
[www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk)  
[creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk)

Please also refer to the ‘information for students’ section on our website [http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/studying-with-us/information-for-students](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/studying-with-us/information-for-students) and the 20/21 Student Handbook for further information and guidance relating to all aspects of the course including study skills, assignments, assessment and moderation. The Course Information and Help and Guidance section of the ICE VLE will also contain valuable information specific to your course.

*Information correct as at 22 June 2021*
Introduction to creative non-fiction

Start date 12 October 2021
End date 7 December 2021
Day Tuesdays and Saturdays
Time Tuesdays 7.15 – 9.15pm
Venue Remote delivery
Tutors Dr Louise Foxcroft
No. of meetings 9 evening classes plus 2 Saturday day-schools (30 October and 20 November 2021)
Saturdays 11am – 4pm (with break 1-2pm)

Aims
- To make the students aware of the literary tools available to the writer of non-fiction;
- To develop the student’s awareness of the range and styles used in non-fiction;
- To increase the students’ confidence in writing non-fiction.

Content
Many of the most engrossing and entertaining forms of non-fiction borrow techniques such as description, drama and characterisation from fiction. In addition, the writer of non-fiction is also likely to have to turn their hand to research and to be able to use facts to enhance and drive forward their story.

This unit will discuss what makes non-fiction “creative” and the types of writing this might include. We will study a range of published work, such as writing about food, narrative history (history that tells a story), popular science, the essay, sports writing, writing about art, true crime and comic writing to see how authors have used different techniques to engage with their reader. We will discuss how to make the most of research and to ensure that you keep it in its place.

The unit will demystify the art of writing and, through practical exercises and close reading, encourage students to find their own voice. Students will experiment with their own writing and blend different elements from a variety of approaches to non-fiction.

Presentation of the unit
This unit will be taught through a series of informal seminars. You will use close reading, discussion and practical writing exercises to explore different approaches to creative non-fiction. Each class is designed to expose you to new ideas or techniques and to encourage you to experiment in a relaxed, supportive and friendly atmosphere. There will also be the chance to share work on the class’s password-protected Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

All teaching will be carried out remotely. We will “meet” via live video conferencing and our guest speakers will also join us by video. Our guest speakers will also join us by video,
usually from their home or office. There may be additional, pre-recorded presentations for you to watch between classes. All our tutors have experience of teaching remotely.

**Provisional lecture list**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 1</td>
<td>12 October 2021</td>
<td>What makes non-fiction creative?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 2</td>
<td>19 October 2021</td>
<td>‘Good prose is like a window pane’: clarity, brevity, voice, flow and structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 3</td>
<td>26 October 2021</td>
<td>Facts, facts, facts: what are they? Where to find them, what to do with them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday day-school (11am-1pm, 2-4pm)</td>
<td>30 October 2021</td>
<td>Looking for ideas in history and science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 4</td>
<td>2 November 2021</td>
<td>Writing is such sweet sorrow: what to do if you get stuck; how to vary the pace and inject tension; when to cut and when to stop!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 5</td>
<td>9 November 2021</td>
<td>Writing narrative history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 6</td>
<td>16 November 2021</td>
<td>The art of the essay. Humour, wit and satire in non-fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday day-school (11am-1pm, 2-4pm)</td>
<td>20 November 2021</td>
<td>Characterisation, dialogue, and bringing real people to life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 7</td>
<td>23 November 2021</td>
<td>Illustrations: as research, to entice your reader or tell a story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 8</td>
<td>30 November 2021</td>
<td>Editing and revising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 9</td>
<td>7 December 2021</td>
<td>Writing the perfect synopsis and submission letter. What do agents want?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Learning Outcomes**
As a result of the unit, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to show they can:

(i) identify some of the key elements in how successful non-fiction is formed;
(ii) show an understanding of how non-fiction can use techniques such as description and characterisation usually associated with fiction;
(iii) develop an awareness of some of the ways of structuring a piece of non-fiction.
Student assessment
Students are encouraged to keep a reflective log. This will not be assessed but will help them to chart their own evaluation of each session and the progress they have made. In addition, students will be expected to submit one long (3,000-4,000 words) piece of non-fiction. Students must discuss and agree the title with the tutor beforehand to ensure it meets the learning outcomes of the unit. The submission must be an original piece of non-fiction. It could be, for example, an essay or a chapter from a book and might fall into one of the following categories:

- narrative history;
- writing about food;
- sports writing;
- comic writing;
- popular science writing;
- an essay.

Although it is recognised that the assignment may contain biographical elements or some description of place, the assignment must not solely be a piece of biographical writing or a piece about place or travel writing. This is to avoid duplication in following units about place and life writing.

Closing date for the submission of assignments: Tuesday 4 January 2022 by 12.00 noon GMT*

*Greenwich Mean Time

Reading and resource list
Reading is an important part of the course and of becoming a good writer. No one book is compulsory but students are urged to read as widely as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editor</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher and date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackburn, Julia</td>
<td>Threads: The Delicate Life of John Craske</td>
<td>London: Vintage, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bywater, Michael</td>
<td>Lost Worlds: What Have We Lost and Where Did it Go?</td>
<td>London: Granta, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blythe, Ronald</td>
<td>Akenfield</td>
<td>London: Penguin Modern Classics, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capote, Truman</td>
<td>In Cold Blood</td>
<td>Penguin Classics, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cline, Sally &amp; Gillies, Midge</td>
<td>Literary Non-Fiction: A Writers’ &amp; Artists’ Companion (Writers’ and Artists’ Companions)</td>
<td>London: Bloomsbury, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criado Perez, Caroline</td>
<td>Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men</td>
<td>Vintage, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kay, Adam</td>
<td>This is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor</td>
<td>Picador, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Publisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kramer, Mark &amp; Call, Wendy</td>
<td><em>Telling True Stories</em></td>
<td>Plume Books, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orwell, George</td>
<td><em>Why I Write</em></td>
<td>Penguin Books - Great Ideas, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self, Will</td>
<td><em>Feeding Frenzy</em></td>
<td>Viking, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skloot, Rebecca</td>
<td><em>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</em></td>
<td>Pan, 2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Syllabus for second unit
Lent term 2022

Writing about place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>End date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 January 2022</td>
<td>1 March 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays and Saturdays</td>
<td>Tuesdays 7.15 – 9.15pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Tutors</th>
<th>No. of meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remote delivery</td>
<td>Derek Niemann and Jeremy Seal</td>
<td>9 evening classes plus 2 Saturday day-schools (29 January and 12 February 2022) Saturdays 11am – 4pm (with break 1-2pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aims
- To introduce students to different approaches to writing about travel, nature and place;
- To foster an understanding of the literary tools available when writing about place;
- To help students to apply these tools when writing different forms of creative non-fiction.

Content
We will begin by discussing how and why different writers create a sense of place. We will look at the ways in which landscape can reveal stories or play a part in a wider narrative. Students will examine how encounters and companions can add depth and pace to non-fiction and the role played by a sense of quest. The group will look at how nature, in its many forms, can add to a description of place – whether in an urban or rural setting, in today’s world or the in past.

We will discuss the tradition of the nature writer and the travel writer who – until recently – was usually male. Close reading of a variety of published work will help students to apply techniques to their own work – whether they want to write about an urban or rural landscape or to add a sense of place to a piece of narrative history, or other form of creative non-fiction.

The unit will look at the challenges of writing about natural beauty and how creating a sense of place can enhance most forms of creative non-fiction.

Presentation of the unit
This unit will be taught through a series of informal seminars. You will use close reading, discussion and practical writing exercises to explore different approaches to creative non-fiction. Each class is designed to expose you to new ideas or techniques and to encourage you to experiment in a relaxed, supportive and friendly atmosphere. There will also be the chance to share work on the class’s password-protected Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

All teaching will be carried out remotely. We will “meet” via live video conferencing and our guest speakers will also join us by video. Our guest speakers will join us by video, usually
from their home or office. There may be additional, pre-recorded presentations for you to watch between classes. All our tutors have experience of teaching remotely.

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<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 1</td>
<td>4 January 2022</td>
<td>How do writers create a sense of place?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 2</td>
<td>11 January 2022</td>
<td>Landscapes: what's the story?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 3</td>
<td>18 January 2022</td>
<td>Companions and characters along the way, including dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 4</td>
<td>25 January 2022</td>
<td>Bringing landscapes of the past to life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday day-school (11am-1pm, 2-4pm)</td>
<td>29 January 2022</td>
<td>Travel writing for publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 5</td>
<td>1 February 2022</td>
<td>Travel Writing as quest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 6</td>
<td>8 February 2022</td>
<td>Making nature come to life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday day school (11am-1pm, 2-4pm)</td>
<td>12 February 2022</td>
<td>Gathering wild material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 7</td>
<td>15 February 2022</td>
<td>Environmental issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 8</td>
<td>22 February 2022</td>
<td>Weather in writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 9</td>
<td>1 March 2022</td>
<td>Mixing genres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Learning Outcomes**

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

(i) demonstrate knowledge of how writing about place may include elements from more than one discipline or genre;
(ii) show an understanding of how authors writing about landscape, travel or nature can use tools such as characterisation, dialogue or description;
(iii) develop an awareness of some of the ways of structuring a piece of writing about travel, nature or place.

**Student assessment**

Students are encouraged to keep a reflective log. This will not be assessed but will help them to chart their own evaluation of each session and the progress they have made. In addition, students will be expected to submit one long (3,000-4,000 words) piece of non-fiction. **Students must discuss and agree the title with the tutor beforehand to ensure it meets the learning outcomes of the unit.** The submission must be an original piece of writing about travel, nature or place – or a combination of more than one genre.

*Closing date for the submission of assignments: Tuesday 22 March 2022 by 12.00 noon GMT*
*Greenwich Mean Time

**Reading and resource list**
Reading is an important part of the course and of becoming a good writer. No one book is compulsory but students are urged to read as widely as possible. In addition, there are several good anthologies of writing about travel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher and date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jamie, Kathleen</td>
<td>Findings</td>
<td>London: Sort of Books, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris, Alexandra</td>
<td>Weatherland: Writers and artists under English skies</td>
<td>London: Thames &amp; Hudson, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laing, Olivia</td>
<td>To the River</td>
<td>Edinburgh: Canongate, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liptrot, Amy</td>
<td>The Outrun</td>
<td>Edinburgh: Canongate, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macdonald, Helen</td>
<td>H is for Hawk</td>
<td>London: Jonathan Cape, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macfarlane, Robert</td>
<td>The Old Ways</td>
<td>London: Penguin 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savoy, Lauret</td>
<td>Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape</td>
<td>Basic Civitas Books, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Websites:
Jeremy Seal – [www.jeremyseal.com](http://www.jeremyseal.com)
[www.thewillowherbreview.com](http://www.thewillowherbreview.com)
The Guardian Country Diary – [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/series/country-diary](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/series/country-diary)
Syllabus for third unit  
Easter term 2022  

Life Writing

Start date 22 March 2022  
End date 17 May 2022  

Day Tuesdays and Saturdays  
Time Tuesdays 7.15 – 9.15pm  
Venue Remote delivery  

Tutors Lucinda Hawksley and Miranda Doyle  
No. of meetings 8 evening classes plus 2 Saturday day-schools (9 April and 7 May 2022) Saturdays 11am – 4pm (with break 1-2pm)

Aims

- To understand what literature falls into the category life writing and the difference between biography, autobiography, memoir and autobiographical novel;
- To develop students’ awareness of the range of styles and treatments that are most appropriate for different biographical subjects;
- To develop the skills in handling research and creating structures that support work in life writing;
- To consider the ethical issues in writing about the lives of others (or oneself).

Content

Life Writing focuses on an individual (or occasionally more than one - a family, a couple, a partnership) and so character is to the fore. Nevertheless, to make that character come to life requires a strong sense of time and place, good descriptive powers and an eye for telling detail - inanimate objects may tell a reader a great deal about the person who possesses, inhabits, or comes across them.

For this reason, research needs to extend beyond the background of the chosen individual to their society and period. Several books within this field are micro-histories.

Perhaps the hardest part of Life Writing is getting the structure right, so that pace is maintained. Students will be encouraged to think what treatment might suit a given character. A formal biography of a famous person may have a useful timeline as its skeleton, but a writer still needs to be selective in order to maintain narrative interest. A memoir may allow a great deal of freedom in content, voice and structure, but the challenge there is to arrange material in a cohesive and imaginative way. Both require skills from fiction (description, tension, empathy) to make them compelling.

All Life Writing has inevitable gaps and the unit will provide opportunity for students to think about how they handle these to create a smooth narrative. By reading from the bibliography and discussing these and a variety of techniques and concepts in the class, students will be equipped to make decisions about a topic and the appropriate treatment to make the subject of their Life Writing project, and their subject's world, feel real.
The unit aims to give students the confidence to experiment with their own work and enjoy the rich possibilities of focusing on a single life.

**Presentation of the unit**
This unit will be taught through a series of informal seminars. You will use close reading, discussion and practical writing exercises to explore different approaches to creative non-fiction. Each class is designed to expose you to new ideas or techniques and to encourage you to experiment in a relaxed, supportive and friendly atmosphere. There will also be the chance to share work on the class’s password-protected Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

All teaching will be carried out remotely. We will “meet” via live video conferencing and our guest speakers will also join us by video. Our guest speakers will also join us by video, usually from their home or office. There may be additional, pre-recorded presentations for you to watch between classes. All our tutors have experience of teaching remotely.

**Provisional lecture list**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 1</td>
<td>22 March 2022</td>
<td>Whose life is it anyway?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 2</td>
<td>29 March 2022</td>
<td>Where to start?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 3</td>
<td>5 April 2022</td>
<td>Research: methods, resources and how to begin your journey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday school (11am-1pm, 2-4pm)</td>
<td>9 April 2022</td>
<td>Overcoming obstacles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 4</td>
<td>12 April 2022</td>
<td>Characterisation. How to make real people even more so.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 5</td>
<td>26 April 2022</td>
<td>Structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 6</td>
<td>3 May 2022</td>
<td>Ephemera and objects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday school (11am-1pm, 2-4pm)</td>
<td>7 May 2022</td>
<td>Whose truth is real?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 7</td>
<td>10 May 2022</td>
<td>Making the ordinary, extraordinary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 8</td>
<td>17 May 2022</td>
<td>Roundup of course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Learning Outcomes**

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

(i) show an understanding of different approaches to writing about a historical or contemporary life;
(ii) develop an awareness of suitable projects and treatments for an autobiographical or biographical piece of work, or the range of structural options in how to shape a memoir;
(iii) identify how to start research on a life and what kind of research is likely to prove fruitful;
(iv) show an understanding of the link between a life and its historical and social context.

Student assessment
Students are encouraged to keep a reflective log. This will not be assessed but will help them to chart their own evaluation of each session and the progress they have made. In addition, students will be expected to submit one long (3,000-4,000 words) piece of work. Students must discuss and agree the title with the tutor beforehand to ensure it meets the learning outcomes of the unit. The submission must be an original piece of life writing: this may be any piece in any style that falls within the category. It could be a formal biographical piece on a historical figure, a childhood memoir, a chapter from a memoir or biography or even an essay on the pleasures and problems of writing the life you want to pursue.

Closing date for the submission of assignments: Tuesday 7 June 2022 by 12.00 noon

* British Summer Time

Reading and resource list
Reading is an important part of the course and of becoming a good writer. No one book is compulsory, but students are urged to read as widely as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<th>Publisher and date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Barnes, Julian</td>
<td>Levels of Life</td>
<td>London: Vintage, 2014</td>
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<td>Colquhoun, Kate</td>
<td>Did She Kill Him?</td>
<td>New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2014</td>
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<td>De Waal, Edmund</td>
<td>The Hare With Amber Eyes</td>
<td>London: Vintage, 2011</td>
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<td>Doyle, Miranda</td>
<td>A Book of Untruths</td>
<td>London: Faber &amp; Faber, 2017</td>
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<td>Ephron, Nora*</td>
<td>Heartburn</td>
<td>London: Vintage, 2018</td>
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<td>Gutkind, Lee*</td>
<td>You Can’t Make This Stuff Up</td>
<td>Boston: Da Capo, 2012</td>
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<td>Machado, Carmen Maria</td>
<td><em>In the Dream House: A Memoir</em></td>
<td>London: Serpent's Tail, 2019</td>
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* Extract handouts will be provided.*
### TIMETABLE

#### Michaelmas 2021: Introduction to Creative Non-fiction

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#### Lent 2022: Writing about place

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#### Easter 2022: Life Writing

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Assignment submission dates are normally 3 weeks after final teaching session of term.

*Whilst every effort is made to avoid changes to this programme, published details may be altered without notice at any time. The Institute reserves the right to withdraw or amend any part of this programme without prior notice.*