Course Title: Establishing a Creative Writing Practice  
Course Code: EGL 17 WA and WB  
Instructor: Ammi Keller

Course Summary:

The course combines information about the creative writing process with plenty of practice. Students will write in response to inventive daily prompts, clocking in as many pages as possible and cheering each other on. They’ll be welcome to share work for encouraging feedback from one another (or to forgo feedback but get credit for having done the writing). And if you like you can share one freewrite of up to 500 words each week for brief supportive feedback from the instructor. Plus, if at any point in the course you find yourself wanting to ignore the prompts and start your own project, you can always use your writing time and our feedback boards for that instead. All of which means that at the end of the class you’ll have up to two dozen or more pieces of fresh work, from experimental snippets to stories-in-progress, plus a plan for next steps.

Each week will provide new reasons to write (like information about how writing improves health outcomes, reduces stress and benefits relationships) and ways to cut through the barriers to writing (such befriending and reintegrating one’s critical voice, working mindfully with distraction, forgoing perfectionism, and forgiving dead ends and down time). Rather than using a course book, the class will use optional online articles and videos from a range of voices and sources, including short published poems, memoirs and stories as inspiration.

We’ll be building a solid foundation for lifelong writing by embracing the contradictions inherent in the creative process and by shoring up the individual and collective reasons why writing adds so much value to our own lives, the lives of the people we care about, and the global society of which we’re a part.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - A passing grade (for "Credit") = Posting your creative writing at least five times total during the class
- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St. Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Zoom Schedule:

A one-hour session will take place each week on Tuesdays at 4 pm Pacific time/5 pm Mountain time/6 pm Central time/7 pm Eastern time. Each session will offer a one-hour module combining freewriting, a writing lesson and optional sharing or discussion, plus 15 minutes of optional Q&A afterwards with the instructor. One of these sessions will be hosted by a guest writer. Attendance is optional and a recording will be available so those who can’t attend can do the module on their own time.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1: Getting Started Freewriting
Key questions: Why write? Why now?

Week 2: The Value of Creative Writing
Key question: What enables you to write?

Week 3: Making Use of Distraction
Key question: What stops you from writing?

Week 4: Being a Beginner
Key questions: How can you learn—or re-learn—to be a beginner?

Week 5: The Beloved Habit
Key question: Where can you go from here?

*Section WA and WB of this class will have the same structure but different links and prompt. Feel free to join us for one or both sections!*

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