



Course Title: Writing in Community: Awakening the Creative Spirit

Course Code: CW 01 B

Instructor: Rachel Smith

Course Summary:

In each class we'll discuss process and/or craft, write together, share work in small groups, write some more, and reflect on our own engagement with the work. I've outlined a tentative schedule of excerpts and exercises that we'll make use of in each of our five weeks, but these are subject to change. Several of the current selections come from George Saunders' *A Swim in the Pond in the Rain*, but prompts will be suitable for both fiction and creative nonfiction writers. I may share optional homework assignments.

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

Note About Live Attendance and Recording:

These class sessions will be recorded

Although our sessions will be recorded, the magic of this course is in writing and sharing together, and experiencing the focus that comes with writing with others in real time. You should plan to attend sessions live to receive the full benefit of the course. In order to receive credit, you must attend or watch at least four of the five class sessions.

Grade Options and Requirements:

Due to its short format, this workshop may not be taken for Credit or a Letter Grade. If you require proof of participation, please email continuingstudies@stanford.edu within one week of the last day of class and they will email you a certificate of attendance.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Please note that this schedule is tentative and details/selections are subject to change.

Week One

Excerpt: Facts, George Saunders on Tolstoy

Exercises: Facts and Authorial Opinions

Week Two

Excerpt: Milan Kundera quote

Exercises: Deserving fate?

Week Three

Excerpt: Magical Dinners, Chang Rae Lee

Exercises: Weirdness

Week Four

Excerpt: If you start out to write a poem about two dogs...

Exercises: Freedom from plans

Week Five

Excerpt: *There There* by Tommy Orange

Exercises: What makes you different