



**Course Title:** Establishing a Creative Writing Practice

**Course Code:** CW 17 WA and WB

**Instructor:** Ammi Keller

## **Class Sessions and Recording**

Meeting days and times: Tuesdays at 12 pm PST/2 pm Central time/3 pm Eastern time

Meeting location: Zoom.

The class sessions will be recorded.

Although live writing sessions involve optional participation via chat box, breakout rooms and large group sharing, attending the live sessions is not required to get the benefits of the course.

## **Course Features:**

### Live session

- Weekly one-hour guided creative writing sessions, involving a mix of:
  - Presentations and mini craft lessons
  - Inspiring published and student work as examples
  - Pre-writing brainstorming
  - Timed prompts student may respond to with nonfiction, fiction, poetry or journal-style writing
  - Full class chat box micro shares and the use of fellow student's contributions to cue writing ideas
  - Verbal sharing via breakout rooms and large group readings.
- Cameras may be on or off. Choosing to share or keep the writing private is always the choice of the student.
- After the one hour guided session, the instructor will stick around for an optional 15-minute Q&A. Students should expect verbal sharing in the main class session to be brief with more time during the Q&A to ask any writing or writing process related questions.
- Students in any time zone can watch the videos instead of attending live and write along with the prompts and instructions. This writing can be shared on the course discussion boards.
- Assignments & Coursework

- Student will receive a daily writing prompt in their email every weekday at 3 am Pacific time. These daily prompts can also be viewed on Canvas at any time.
- Students respond to the prompts and are invited to optionally post the result to Canvas for brief appreciation from one or more classmates (or for credit but no feedback if they prefer). The course does not offer constructive criticism on writing - only cheerleading in order to generate more writing.
- Students are also asked to offer a brief, encouraging response to at least one other writer each time they share writing.
- Although the course is built to support a daily writing practice, most participants do not end up doing all the prompts but pick and choose which inspire them. Success in the course is achieved by writing at least once per week for five weeks - via the live sessions/videos or emailed prompts, or a student's own inspiration. Doing more - including doing all twenty-five prompts - is encouraged but not expected.
- The instructor offers optional brief supportive feedback, i.e. cheerleading, once per week on one piece of up to 500 words. Students email the instructor to request feedback. Alternately, a student can "save up" their words for brief encouraging feedback on a longer piece.

## Course Summary

The course combines information about the creative writing process with plenty of practice. No prior creative writing experience is necessary - just a commitment to adventure using the written word.

The heart of the course is writing to inventive prompts and cheering one each other on. The prompts are designed to spark different aspects of the creative brain and may use any of the following: the writing of published memoirists and poets, questions about meaningful past experience, unexpected formats for creative writing (like a receipt or a want ad), observations of the world around the writer including mindfulness activities, and more. They are designed to be accessible and inviting even to those with little to no experience - and to be a breath of fresh air for those who have written a lot. In addition, 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 the class boards for that instead.

All of which means that at the end of the class you could easily have up to two dozen or more pieces of fresh work, plus a sense of where you'd like to go next.

*\*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 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.*

## Textbooks/Required Materials

No textbooks will be used. The course will use links to published poems, stories and videos, all of which are optional to view.

## Tentative Weekly Outline

The course has the same outline for each week, as described above. The daily prompts vary to appeal to different writers at different times.

They might ask you to:

- Recount and explore experiences
- Experiment with poetic forms
- Write a memory or story using an unexpected format
- Explore the world around you and write about what you find
- Write inspired by a classmate's writing
- And more!

If a particular day's prompt doesn't appeal to you, you're encouraged to look at the week's other prompts and dig into one of those.

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