

Advanced English: Creativity and the Writers' Craft

Matthew Jones

Academic year 2024-2025 - **Language Department** - Spring semester.

This course welcomes students of the C1 and C2 levels who are passionate about words, developing English through written and verbal expression. Through a combination of lectures, writing exercises, and student-led presentations, a fully engaged student will develop confidence and creativity while having fun.

Course Objectives

This is a 12-week creative writing course and community project that demands you develop the muscles of creativity and leadership.

The main objectives of this course are:

- Finding joy in writing by exposing students to many styles and types of writing, inspired by myth, monsters, gods, philosophy, case studies, canonical writers, and Ariana Grande, queen of pop
- Increasing mastery of writing craft through stylistic and pragmatic feedback
- Gaining familiarity with the writers' world of workshops, retreats, grants, query letters, agents, digital marketing, publications, and the rest of the maze
- Developing the writerly skills that will help you in any profession: performing, editing, and self-motivation.
- Building confidence, public-speaking skill, and stage presence by participating in a cross-class poetry slam or open mic.

Background

Most students crave conformity but what they need is meaning. Whether you be imprisoned literally, or just caught in a cage of the mind, creativity can be a lifeline, an escape path, a superpower. An increasingly coveted skill by managers and professionals, creativity is at the root of both resilience and leadership.

My students suffer from colossal pressures which undermine their mental health and make them feel alone even in a crowd. Through our ambition of a multi-class open mic, we reap the benefits of community and making art, while developing our confidence and presentation skills.

Course Description

Join Matthew Jones, novelist, poet, performer, editor, and veteran, in a course that constantly morphs into new styles of writing each week: prose, poetry, flash, recipes, social media posts, emails, and that letter you never sent to the one you ghosted.

Organization

Every student who participates has an opportunity to shape the course content with recommendations and ideas. Creative team projects and co-written pieces will provoke discussions about the marketing, submitting, distribution, and other practical aspects of the writing craft. Writing prompts will inspire us each day, and the best of our work we will edit/polish for collaborations.