

Advanced English: Creativity and the Writers' Craft

Matthew Jones

Academic year 2022-2023 - **Language Department** - Spring semester.

This course is meant for students of the advanced C1 and C2 levels who are passionate about writing. This language class will develop written and verbal skills through writing, sharing, engaging, and performing.

Course Objectives

This is a 12-week creative writing course that demands you develop the muscle of creativity.

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, pop culture, and Ariana Grande.
- 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.

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.

As one old soldier said: "There is no such thing as creativity; there is only courage."

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, even that one letter you wrote but never sent.

Organization

Every class will be part student-led; each writer will have an opportunity to steer and direct the course through a seminar. 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.