

Advanced English: Creativity and the Writers' Craft

Matthew Jones

Academic year 2023-2024 - **Language Department** - Spring semester.

This course welcomes students of the C1 and C2 levels who are passionate about writing, developing English through written and verbal expression. Through a communal effort to animate Kaleidoscope, the student-run English magazine, the course creates community and promotes leadership skills to serve you throughout life.

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 Lady Gaga.
- 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 a writing community at SciencesPo by expanding the reach and legitimacy of Kaleidoscope.

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 ambitious project of building a SciencesPo magazine, we reap the benefits of community and making art, while developing our leadership and initiative. Moving towards empowerment, we find the meaning we so craved is what we make.

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.