

Queens' 24 International Summer School Programme

Programme Topic: STORY (Writing)

Academic Lead: John D'Arcy

Date: 24 June – 4 July 2024

Topic Summary

Offers students the opportunity to work on a piece of their own prose writing across the two weeks, introducing them to the skills required in terms of craft, technique, editing, and rewriting.

Whether you are new to the processes of writing or plan to work on an already existing piece of your own composition, you will form part of a supportive and engaged writing workshop (maximum size 12–14 per workshop) led by experienced members of the Seamus Heaney Centre teaching team. Across the two weeks you will produce a series of 200–1000-word pieces of writing that will be workshopped by your peers, so your openness to receiving feedback and readiness to redrafting your work in light of it will be a key aspect of the learning process.

Participants may also opt to work with students on either the Immersive Audio or the 3D Real Time Interactive Design strands to produce an individual recording or a hybrid collaborative version of their work as part of the closing performance event for the summer school.

Intended Learning Outcomes

- Understand the fundamentals of good writing practice: character development, plot direction, narrative arrangement, tone modulation, editing and revising.
- Obtain the ability to generate, execute and conceptualise a unique creative project, drawing on the tried processes and techniques of experienced writers.
- Acquire an understanding of the creative process as a medium for developing critical as well as intuitive thinking and problem-solving.
- Appreciate the literary, cultural, and historical contexts within which writers write, including the influence of past and present literary forms, structures, styles, and traditions.
- Comprehend the significance of contextualising your own and others' narrative work in literary, social, and cultural terms.
- Gain confidence in engaging critically and creatively with others, whether peers or established practitioners.



STORY Part I

| Time | Session/Activity | Academic Lead | Location |
|--|--|---------------|----------|
| Monday 24th June – <i>Staring at a Blank Page</i> | | | |
| 9.30am – 10.30am | Lecture: Introduction to STORY | tbc | |
| 10.30am – 11am | Break | | |
| 11am – 12.30pm | Seminar: 'Feeling into Words' Participants brainstorm on <i>ways into</i> writing, discussing the relationships between different mediums, artforms and genres, and how/why the world and the written word inspire would-be writers. Analysing a range of example texts, this seminar will emphasise the centrality of reading to writing. Here students will decide which genre (fiction, memoir or something in-between) best suits their interests. | tbc | |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch | | |
| 1.30pm – 4pm | Writing Session Content from the lecture and the seminar is employed. Students, encouraged to <i>write themselves into their story</i> , may either remain in the conducive writing environment of the seminar room or find some other space (accommodation, café, park, etc). | | |

| Tuesday 25th June – <i>Point of View, Character, Voice</i> | | | |
|--|--|-----|--|
| 9.30am – 11.30am | Workshop An opportunity for students to share their initial ideas for their project and receive feedback and encouragement from established writers and peers. | tbc | |
| 11.30am – 12pm | Break | | |
| 12pm – 12.30pm | Lecture Students encouraged to consider how to build character outlines, choose which point of view suits their project and begin to think about voice, tone, style and subtext. | tbc | |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch | | |
| 1.30pm – 4pm | Writing Session Content from the lecture is employed. Students, encouraged to <i>write themselves into their story</i> , may either remain in the conducive writing environment of the seminar room or find some other space (accommodation, café, park, etc). | | |



| Wednesday 26th June – <i>Structure, Narrative, Plot</i> | | | |
|--|--|------------|--|
| 9.30am – 11.30am | Workshop An opportunity to share work and receive feedback and encouragement from established writers and peers. | tbc | |
| 11.30am – 12pm | Break | | |
| 12pm – 12.30pm | Lecture Exploration of how writers go about structuring their story for maximum effect. | tbc | |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch | | |
| 1.30pm – 4pm | One-to-Ones Individual students receive feedback from established writers. | tbc | |



| Thursday 27th June – Formatting, Finetuning, Performing | | | |
|--|---|------------|--|
| 9.30am – 10am | Lecture Students are shown various techniques for editing, revising and polishing work. | tbc | |
| 10am – 11.30 | Workshop An opportunity to share work and receive feedback and encouragement from established writers and peers. | tbc | |
| 11.30am – 12pm | Break | | |
| 12pm – 12.30pm | Liaison with SARC, MediaLab or Heaney Centre Students meet with Heaney Centre writers, sonic arts or 3D design professionals. | tbc | |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch | | |
| 1.30pm – 4pm | Workshop This is an opportunity for students to rehearse a reading/performance of their work, record at SARC, or design a computer-generated piece. | | |



STORY Part II

| Monday 1st July – <i>World Building and the Image</i> | | | |
|---|--|-----|--|
| 9.30am – 10.30am | Lecture Students introduced to principles literary setting and employment of compelling imagery. | tbc | |
| 10.30am – 11am | Break | | |
| 11am – 12.30pm | Seminar Participants brainstorm on content from lecture and discuss considerations of writing short- and longform memoir and fiction. | tbc | |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch | | |
| 1.30pm – 4pm | Writing Session Content from the lecture and the seminar is employed. Students, encouraged to <i>write themselves into their story</i> , may either remain in the conducive writing environment of the seminar room or find some other space (accommodation, café, park, etc). | | |



| Tuesday 2nd July – <i>Dialogue</i> | | | |
|---|---|------------|--|
| 9.30am – 11.30am | Workshop An opportunity for students to share their work and receive feedback and encouragement from established writers and peers. | tbc | |
| 11.30am – 12pm | Break | | |
| 12pm – 12.30pm | Lecture Students encouraged to consider how to incorporate dialogue into their work. | tbc | |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch | | |
| 1.30pm – 4pm | Writing Session Content from the lecture is employed in practice. | | |



| Wednesday 3rd July – <i>Metaphor, Allegory, Ideology</i> | | | |
|---|--|------------|--|
| 9.30am – 11.30am | Workshop An opportunity to share work and receive feedback and encouragement from established writers and peers. | tbc | |
| 11.30am – 12pm | Break | | |
| 12pm – 12.30pm | Lecture Exploration of how writers employ extended figurative conceits and the subtle implantation of politics. | tbc | |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch | | |
| 1.30pm – 4pm | One-to-Ones Individual students receive feedback from established writers. | tbc | |

| Thursday 4th July – <i>Originality and Getting Something Published</i> | | |
|---|---|------------|
| 9.30am – 10am | Lecture Exploration of the notion of 'literary voice' and importance of being involved in a writers' community. | tbc |
| 10am – 11.30 | Workshop An opportunity to share work and receive feedback and encouragement from established writers and peers. | tbc |
| 11.30am – 12pm | Break | |
| 12pm – 12.30pm | Presentation Heaney Centre Publishing Fellow talks to students about how to prepare work for submission to publishers, journals, magazines and anthology editors. | tbc |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch | |
| 1.30pm – 4pm | One-to-Ones Individual students receive feedback from established writers. | tbc |