

WRT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, OBJECTIVES, AND ASSIGNMENTS

WRT 501 Reading as a Writer

This course examines the writing craft of respected children and young adult authors. The course content explores craft elements, including audience, word choice, sentence construction, narration, plot, characters, and setting. Candidates identify, analyze, and model these elements by a thorough reading of selected picture books, fiction, and nonfiction books. (Graduate Catalog)

OBJECTIVES

1. To deconstruct the use of word choice, dialogue, narration, story structure, and other elements of storytelling in contemporary children's books.
2. To compare and contrast the different types of humor and sadness in contemporary children's books, with regard to their effectiveness.
3. To understand how writers weave well-crafted stories from topical issues.
4. To understand when and how storytelling rules may be effectively broken.
5. To know the difference between "action plots" and "emotional plots," and the ways in which the two work together to create a fully realized story.
6. To implement various storytelling techniques into your own writing, with the aim of ultimately producing well-crafted, marketable books for children.
7. To reflect on your learning, evaluate your performance, and set goals for future growth.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Words, Sentences, and Paragraphs
2. Narration, Character, and Dialogue
3. Details and Gesture
4. Story Structure

WRT 503 Fiction: Writing Novels for Grades 3-12

This course explores the mechanics of writing an effective (and marketable) novel for middle grade or young adult readers. Through guided instruction, group participation, and video visits with guest expert writers, agents, or editors, candidates leverage their own unique voice and point of view to grow their characters' environment into a fully-realized fictional world by creating a story concept, building plots and subplots, and developing a meticulous outline that moves the story forward at a steady pace. Candidates write the first chapter of their novel, preparing them to enter the writing workshop course.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze story structure by deconstructing and identifying different writing craft skills and story-telling devices.
2. To synthesize the elements of the writers' toolbox and use those skills to create a fictional world and believable characters.
3. To evaluate the use of craft in published novels and explain why it is or is not effective.
4. To write, rewrite, and modify a story outline and create the first chapter of a novel.
5. To reflect on your learning, evaluate your performance, and set goals for future growth.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Story Concepts
2. Novel Outline
3. Character Questionnaire & Dialogue
4. First Novel Chapter

WRT 505 Nonfiction: Writing for Grades PreK-12

This course examines the methods of writing marketable nonfiction (books, magazines, and other media) for students in grades PreK-12. The course content explores the techniques of writing nonfiction, school curricula, and the publishers of curriculum material. Candidates write the query letter, outline, and first chapter of a nonfiction topic, preparing them to enter the writing workshop course.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the nonfiction market and to identify appropriate publishers for queries.
2. To read and discuss current children's magazines, outstanding nonfiction titles, and authors.
3. To prepare one nonfiction magazine submission, integrating peer feedback into the revision.
4. To prepare one nonfiction book submission, integrating peer feedback into the revision.
5. To reflect on your learning, evaluate your performance, and set goals for future growth.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Market Analysis
2. Book Proposal
3. Magazine Proposal
4. Writing the Article or Chapter

WRT 507 Picture Books: Writing for Grades PreK-4

This course explores the mechanics of writing an effective picture book for young readers. Through guided instruction, group participation, and visits with guest expert writers, agents or editors, candidates leverage their own unique voice and point of view to flesh out their picture book's characters, plot, and purpose. Candidates write a complete first draft of a picture book, preparing them to enter the writing workshop course.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze published picture books by deconstructing and identifying different writing craft skills and story-telling devices
2. To synthesize the elements of the writers' toolbox and use those skills to create a picture book with a strong story and character arc.
3. To evaluate the use of craft in published picture books and explain why it is or is not effective.
4. To write the first draft of a picture book.
5. To reflect on your learning, evaluate your performance, and set goals for future growth.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Story Questions
2. Picture Book Plot
3. Picture Book Language
4. First Draft of Picture Book

WRI 510 Writing Workshop

This course creates an online academic community where candidates apply knowledge they gained from previous writing courses and write creatively in a supportive environment. The course content centers on writing and revising as well as providing helpful feedback to classmates' work. Each module, candidates submit a set number of written and revised pages while actively contributing to the online workshop community.

OBJECTIVES

1. To create new written work each week.
2. To integrate peer feedback into new work.
3. To analyze and write a weekly critique of classmates' work.
4. To revise your own work when necessary.
5. To reflect on your learning, evaluate your performance, and set goals for future growth.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Creative Pages
2. Creative Pages
3. Creative Pages
4. Creative Pages