

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENCIES at SCHOOL ONE

All of the classes on this list take place at School One, 220 University Avenue, Providence RI
401-331-2497 / www.school-one.org

Science Fiction and Fantasy Workshop

In this workshop, we will read and write fiction that doesn't follow the rules of our world. Expect the likes of alien encounters, invisible cities, dystopian regimes, and girls raised by wolves. Expect the strange in forms dramatic and subtle. The Speculative Workshop is both for people who live for this sort of stuff and for people who have never written these kinds of stories before (but want to try). This course will develop the skills that are important to writing in any genre: characterization, plot, setting, strong sentences, and point of view. Yet we will also investigate the special challenges to writing science fiction and fantasy—like how to get readers to suspend their sense of disbelief, or how to build convincing worlds.

Workshop Dates: October 11th- November 15th (Monday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm- 8:00pm

Workshop fee: \$200 (for six weeks)

Sign Up: Contact Diana at School One, 401-331-2497 / dianac@school-one.org

Create and Generate: Clustering

In this course, students use a variety of sensory stimuli; art, poetry, objects from nature, and other prompts, to spark creativity and get writing! Instructor Barbara Slater will encourage playful exploring and introduce the concept of “Clustering”, a process generates ideas, creativity and inspire fresh, new approaches to writing.

Workshop Dates: September 24th – November 5th (Monday)

Workshop Length: 6-8pm

Workshop fee: \$200

Sign Up: Contact Diana at School One, 401-331-2497 / dianac@school-one.org

Building Chapbooks

Have you been writing poems or flash fiction in bunches and they seem to interrelate? Are you interested in seeing how they'd read in a physical form? Have you thought about collecting your writing but it simply doesn't feel ready for a full-length treatment just yet? Do you just love the design, feel, and smell of books? Then "Building Chapbooks" could be the course for you! No more than 40 pages, chapbooks offer a warm, slim, and all-around interesting way of presenting your writing besides a standard book. Over the course of six weeks, each student will workshop their writing with a mind toward figuring out how these pieces, as well as future ones, may relate to one another and take shape in the form of a chapbook. Through craft discussions, feedback from the instructor and your peers, and looking at successful chapbooks, you will leave the class with your own chapbook. Though this course is open to poets of all levels, and it is recommended that you have previous workshop experience and a few poems already written.

Student Writing Level: Intermediate

Workshop Dates: October 11th- November 15th (Thursday)

Workshop Length: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Workshop fee: \$200

Sign Up: Contact Diana at School One, 401-331-2497/dianac@school-one.org

Goat Hill Seminar Series The Scene

Scenes bring the page to life by drawing the reader into a focused and dramatic experience. This seminar will look at what a scene is and isn't, how they function, and when to use them. In-class writing exercises will explore the crafting of impactful scenes.

Workshop Dates: Monday, September 24th

Workshop Length: 6pm – 8:30pm

Workshop fee: \$65 (discounts apply. Visit <https://www.goathillwriters.com> to register.)

Goat Hill Seminar Series

Let's Start at the Very Beginning

What is the best beginning to your novel, memoir, or short story? In this seminar, we will discuss how to find, craft, and revise your work's true beginning. Participants are invited to bring in two double-spaced pages if a beginning for workshopping.

Workshop Dates: Monday, October 22nd

Workshop Length: 6pm – 8:30pm

Workshop fee: \$65 (discounts apply. Visit <https://www.goathillwriters.com> to register.)

Goat Hill Seminar Series

Looking again...and again: Approaches to Revision

While the struggle to get that first draft on paper sometimes seems insurmountable, the real action begins in revision. In this seminar, exercises and discussion will look at ways to chisel out the story and dig into the signs and symbols in your first draft.

Workshop Dates: Monday, December 10th

Workshop Length: 6pm – 8:30pm

Workshop fee: \$65 (discounts apply. Visit <https://www.goathillwriters.com> to register.)

GrubStreet

Unpacking the Poetry Toolkit with Marlon Carey

Don't really remember what they said about metaphor and simile in school? Unsure what an allusion is? Don't feel like you "get" poetry, but want to gain a better understanding? Do you want to write a poem for a slam poetry competition or a poetry contest? Well you might need a tour of The Poetry Toolkit. This class is for beginning and emerging poets, or anyone who wants to delve deeper into their poetic voice and understanding or aren't sure if what they have been writing is poetry. Focus is on one to three short poems per class dealing with one or more poetic tools. We will unpack the basic tools used in poetry and write our own poems.

Poets read in this class might include:

Ogden Nash Anthony S. Abbott Maya Angelou Robert Frost Emily Dickinson T.S. Eliot Edgar Allan Poe Lewis Carroll Gwendolyn Brooks

Each class is spent examining one or more poetic tools (alliteration, rhyme, hyperbole, personification, etc.) and a writing session designed to produce at least one poem. Each week students will be expected to have read any materials provided at the previous session and be prepared to discuss. Each student will be expected to write in response to prompts given by the instructor and participate in class discussions about toolkit items.

Workshop Dates: September 20th – October 25th (Thursday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Playwrights Workshop with Ben Jolivet

The essence of writing is rewriting, but it can be scary to do it alone. Using the workshop format, you will bring pages of a work-in-progress each week. We will explore your work through group discussion and instructor feedback, delving into ways to get you closer to the play you're trying to write. The instructor will provide dramaturgical suggestions and/or writing exercises that will help you expand or explore your play in new ways. Each week, you may come with a new version of your former pages, or continue your work-in-progress based on what you've learned in class.

Workshop Dates: September 24th – November 5th skipping Columbus Day October 8th (Monday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Introduction to Creative Writing

with Ethan Gilsdorf

Workshop Dates: September 27th – November 15th (Thursday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Writing the Short, Publishable Personal Essay

With Ethan Gilsdorf

What elements make up a successful narrative personal essay or memoir? How do you focus your ideas, memories, and experiences into a coherent form and make sure you're telling a story? In this seminar, we'll look for models and inspiration from book-length memoirs, literary magazines and commercial publications by authors such as Cheryl Strayed, Lee Martin, Brian Doyle, Dinty Moore, Meredith Maran, and others. Through reading and exercises, we'll look at how writers structure their stories using vivid description, "close-ups" and scene-work; passages of reflection, summary and backstory; efficient characterization; the artful use of narrative order (time) and pacing; as well as some key question, dilemma, conflict, or change. By the end of the class, you'll have written some passages that practice some of these techniques and have ideas for how to move forward with your personal essays and memoirs.

Workshop Dates: October 15th – December 10th (Monday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Weekly Playmaking Marathon with Ben Jolivet

Inspired by Pulitzer Prize Winner Paula Vogel's famous "bake-offs," you will leave this course with six new plays you could develop further after the course is over. Each week, we will randomly choose writing prompts to incorporate into a new play. Then, you will have 72 hours to write a play of between 10 and 20 pages, which will be shared with other students and discussed individually the following week. This is an excellent way to break free from block, to experiment

in new forms, and release ourselves from the enemies of creativity. This course requires reading and writing time outside of class.

Workshop Dates: November 19 – December 17 (Monday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Poetry Slam Boot Camp with Marlon Carey

Have you recently been bitten by the slam poetry bug? Do you want to take your skills to the next level? Do you find yourself saying “I think I could do that” when you see or hear a slam poet do their thing? Well if you’ve got some poetry skills, tenacity, courage, a strong stomach and thick skin, this might be the course for you. Each week, we will spend time listening to and reading great slam poems, then we will write our own based on prompts provided by the instructor. Every class ends in a poetry slam, where participants compete by sharing new work. This is an intense workshop, taught by a 15 year veteran of the National Poetry Slam scene. Some of the poets you might encounter in this course are:

Rives Rudy Francisco Patricia Smith Regie Gibson Mahogany Browne Anis Mojgani Franni Choi Jack McCarthy

Participants will be challenged. If you have stage fright, or are not sure how you feel about poetry slam as a high intensity literary sport, or if you aren’t sure you can produce a slam poem a week, have a hard time taking honest criticism in the form of a cold hard number...you might want to skip this one. Writing exercises, challenges and prompts abound in this intense six week training course in slam. Some time is spent working on performance tips, tricks and advice. This class is recommended for the established to advanced poet who wants to become more active in the slam scene.

Workshop Dates: November 1st – December 13th skipping Thanksgiving November 22nd (Thursday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Writing Modern Political Plays with Ben Jovilet

Playwrights have long been connected to politics, but the world has changed and theatre isn't quite the universal language it once was. This means that many political plays tell audiences what they already know and never manage to evoke the transformation in perception that creators hope. In this workshop, we'll explore the theatre audience in your community and how you can write plays that will create the change you're hoping to make. Looking at works such as prison theatre, the WPA'S living newspaper, and other sources, this workshop will help you discover ways of putting your social beliefs into your work in a ways that can shift audience perceptions and even inspire them to create change, themselves.

Workshop Dates: September 17th

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Novel in Progress with Nate McNamara

First drafts of novels can be messy, amorphous, and daunting. Sometimes, extensive critical feedback can be counterproductive before the first draft is finished, yet writers often find themselves losing focus without support and guidance. In class, we will do exercises, discuss craft issues—characterization, the protagonist's desire, plot and outlining, point of view, voice, dialogue—and read short scenes from each other's work, providing feedback in an environment that recognizes the specific challenges of the novel in progress. In the last class, all writers will be invited to submit twenty pages of their novels to receive a written critique from the instructor. Novels of all genres are welcome. Please bring the first page (double-spaced, 12-point font) of your novel to the first class.

Workshop Dates: September 27th – November 15th (Thursday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Introduction to Screenwriting with Mark Fogarty

In this interactive 10-week workshop, writers will learn the art of script writing while working on either a feature-length film or a pilot for a television show. With Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, and YouTube redefining what the word “television” means, the boundaries between TV and feature films have become less clear. Television shows have evolved into long-form movies lasting dozens of hours and told over the course of years, creating some of the most compelling stories of our time. Whether your movie is two or fifty-two hours long, a movie is a movie, and this class seeks to break down the barriers between television and the movies (or better, show that they have already gone away).

Students will learn about the differences and similarities between film and episodic television, explore new media, and discuss how the medium is evolving. We will discuss screenplay format, as well as how to structure a scene, create compelling characters, write dialogue, and overcome writer’s block. Students will work on creating a backstory (or “show bible”) to help make the world of their story more complex and populate this world with fascinating and believable characters.

During the class, we will analyze the structure of several films and episodic television shows to help students gain a complex understanding of stories that follow the Hollywood paradigm as well as those that defy it. Students can expect to leave the class with a detailed outline, several completed scenes crucial to the screenplay, and either a completed first act of a feature-film or the first half-hour of a television pilot.

Writers we will study include:

Jordan Peele (Get Out) Jenji Kohan (Orange is the New Black) Sam Esmail (Mr. Robot) Christopher Nolan (Inception, Memento) Charlie Kaufman (Being John Malkovich, Adaptation) Sarah Gertrude Shapiro (Unreal) Donald Glover (Atlanta) Kumail Nanjiani, Emily V. Gordon (The Big Sick) Guillermo Del Toro (Pan’s Labyrinth, The Shape of Water) Alejandro G. Iñárritu (Birdman, The Revenant) Jill Soloway (Transparent) Rashida Jones (Nosedive)

Workshop Dates: September 20th – November 29th (Thursday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Cinematic Structure for the Prose Writer

with Mark Fogarty

In screenwriting, structure is everything. The rules and principles of three-act structure have been detailed and explored by hundreds of screenwriting gurus, critics, and story consultants. In this three-hour seminar, we will discuss the ins-and-outs of Hollywood structure and how it can be applied to any story. We will learn tricks on how to write a scene cinematically. We'll discuss why it isn't really three-acts (it's at least four) and figure out how to use the structure to reinforce themes and articulate meaning. This class is perfect for novelists or non-fiction writers looking for a new way to see structure.

Workshop Dates: September 24th (Monday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Constructing the Scene with Mark Fogarty

Great scenes can make a story unforgettable, encouraging the audience to come back to the work again and again just to experience this one moment. But how do you construct a scene that moves the story forward and also grabs the audience in a way that they can never forget? In this seminar, writers will learn what makes a great scene and then put this knowledge to work, creating a scene (or transforming an existing one) that will be full of tension, unique detail, and power. Topics covered will include how to create suspense, when to start the scene, subverting the audience's expectations, uncovering character motivations, creating the ideal setting, adding detail, and creating a mood. We will watch and read several great scenes from films and novels and analyze what makes them compelling. For short story writers, novelists, screenwriters, or playwrights looking to make their scenes more effective.

Workshop Dates: November 5th (Monday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Op-eds 101 with Ethan Gilsdorf

Tired of expressing your opinions via your Facebook status? Get your op-ed out of your head, off of social media, and into the headlines! In this seminar, you'll learn the basics of writing and

submitting the standard 800-word op-ed column/commentary. Via lecture, short exercises, and discussion of examples from published op-eds, you'll learn: how to hone your topic into a focused, timely, topical and marketable idea responsive to current events, news and culture that editors want; leverage your personal experience and expertise; master the basic op-ed structure, including crafting ledes and kickers, writing a strong body, and adding support and research; and understand how and where to submit your op-eds to newspapers, magazines, and online publications. In-class exercises will help you get a start on a draft. For any writers looking for practical tips to write and get their op-eds into the marketplace.

Workshop Dates: November 29th (Monday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>

GrubStreet

Discovering Meaning Within Story Structure with Mark Fogarty

One of the purposes of storytellers within society is to explore ideas through a narrative and ask significant questions about what it means to be human. When the storytelling is strong, the audience never sees the truth coming, and the message slides by their defenses with ease. The true storyteller is not a propagandist making messages to wash the brains of an audience. The true storyteller is a shaman entering a narrative to uncover the unconscious ideas which shape our perceptions of the world. In other words, while the propagandist puts the message in first, the shaman tells the story and is changed by it, then reports back to the rest of us. But if the theme is so hard to see, how can we find it in our own work? This seminar is designed to uncover the central idea behind your own story and to give you concrete ways to make it more complex and powerful. We will analyze the story structures and meanings of several films and novels. We will show how characters' arcs influence the themes and how to build a spine that flows through the entire work. And we'll discuss how to find your theme and how to hide it so even the most jaded reader will not see it coming. This seminar is perfect for novelists, screenwriters, and playwrights.

Workshop Dates: November 5th (Monday)

Workshop Length: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Workshop fee: <https://grubstreet.org/findaclass/#/location/school-one>