

SUMMER 2008 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PIPER WRITER'S STUDIO

Workshop Courses for Writers

BEGINNING AND **ONE-DAY** WORKSHOPS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR WRITERS OF ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS.

INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR WRITERS WHO HAVE TAKEN FOUR OR MORE WRITING WORKSHOPS

ONLINE COURSES ARE A CONVENIENT WAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PIPER WRITER'S STUDIO FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. PARTICIPANTS USE WEB-BASED FORUMS TO SUBMIT THEIR WORK AND INTERACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR AND OTHER CLASS MEMBERS.

SUMMER 2008 WORKSHOPS

WEEK OF JUNE 2, 2008 - WEEK OF JULY 28, 2008

IN-PERSON COURSES

INTENSIVE SHORT STORY WRITING WITH ROBERT J. EARLY | MONDAYS 6PM-8PM | PIPER WRITERS HOUSE

BOB EARLY has spent 47 years writing and editing for newspapers and magazines. He began his reporting career in 1958 on The Indianapolis Star, moving to The Arizona Republic in 1961. From 1969 to 1982 he served as city editor, assistant managing editor and managing editor of The Republic. Early also has served as editor of Phoenix Magazine and retired at the end of 2004 after 15 years as editor of Arizona Highways magazine.

Three types of stories are dealt with in this workshop: short stories, short-short stories (1,000 words or less), and flash fiction (100 words or less). It begins with a technique that demonstrates to the writer whether she or he has a viable story. The result is the writer knows the proposed story is complete and effective so no time is wasted writing into a dead end. A two-sentence synopsis is used to confirm the results of the plot technique. Heavy emphasis is placed on developing characters that are real and interesting and on dialogue that helps develop the plot and does not wander. At least three stories are written outside the classroom and a variety of exercises are written in the workshop.

ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

WRITING PERSONAL NARRATIVES WITH TANIA KATAN | SAT., APRIL 19 11AM-3PM | PIPER WRITERS HOUSE

TANIA KATAN'S essays are featured in *Imagining Ourselves*. She is a performer at Comedy Central's Sit 'n Spin and Los Angeles based Word-A-Rama. Her memoir, *My One-Night Stand With Cancer*, was released in 2005. Katan has received the American College Theater Festival Award in Playwriting, the Jane Chambers Student Playwrights Award, American Conservatory Theatre's David Mamet Playwriting Award, and others.

Participants will mine everyday situations for literary gold! Through writing exercises, connecting to the senses, and finding the humor and hardship in our daily lives, participants will learn how to think of their lives as fuel for their writing.

WRITING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE WITH SHAWAWN BERRY | SAT., MAY 3 11AM-3PM | PIPER WRITERS HOUSE

SHAWAWN M. BERRY'S work is forthcoming or has appeared in *Westview - A Journal of Western Oklahoma*, *Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*, *Concho River Review*, *North Atlantic Review*, *Synapse*, *Living Buddhism*, *The World Tribune*, *addictionsolutions.com*, *Blue Mountain Arts/SPS*, and *buddhajones.com*, to name just a few. In 1998, she received her MPW (MFA) in Professional Writing from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles where she specialized in Creative Nonfiction and Memoir. She teaches writing fulltime at Arizona State University.

Words are incredibly powerful. Lively opinion editorials or artful personal essays can change minds, open hearts, or transform lives by communicating a unique perspective on the human experience. Through the exploration of our own passionate views, we can empower ourselves to change the world by picking up a pen. Whether we write to a local newspaper, our congressional representative, or we simply share our thoughts in cyberspace via a personal web-log or journal, we can actively shape the discourse surrounding any issue we care about. This workshop is designed to help us get started.

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ONLINE COURSES

BEGINNING CREATIVE WRITING WITH ERIN SWEETEN

ERIN SWEETEN'S poetry and prose have appeared in a number of journals, including the *Formalist*, the *Cream City Review*, *Hiram Poetry Review*, and *Salt*. She holds an MA from the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University.

This course is perfect for writers looking for a safe, encouraging place to experiment and challenge themselves. We will search for inspiration, create drafts, and gently revise memoir, poetry, and fiction, with plenty of games and activities to get the juices flowing. We'll communicate as a class via an online discussion board.

BEGINNING POETRY WRITING WITH ERIN SWEETEN

In this course we will treat poetry like a creativity buffet, sampling poems in different modes and styles. Projects include a nature poem, a persona poem, a weird poem, a list poem, and more! Expect to have tons of fun and to create and revise poems that you had no idea were in you. We'll communicate as a class via an online discussion board.

BEGINNING FICTION WRITING WITH JENNIFER SPIEGEL

JENNIFER SPIEGEL holds an MA in Politics from New York University and an MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction) from ASU. Her work has appeared in several journals, including *Frostproof Review*, *The Seattle Review*, *Nimrod*, and *The Gettysburg Review*. She was a finalist for the Peter Taylor Prize.

Writing fiction can be intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, and even physically challenging (rumor has it that Hemingway wrote standing up)! This on-line fiction studio will focus on the short story and the principles of writing fiction. We'll write our own stories, exchange work, critique stories for the purpose of revision, and use two exciting texts: *The Idiot's Guide to Creative Writing* and *The Best American Short Stories, 2007*. Discussion is critical!