

American College Dublin

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CW213 WRITING WORKSHOP 4

Credits:	3 US credits / 6 ECTS credits
Credit level:	Stage two
Prerequisites:	None
Mandatory:	No
Contact hours:	40
Academic Year:	2016/17
Semester:	2
Lecturer:	Sean O' Reilly

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The writing workshop provides students with the opportunity to present their work-in-progress to the other students in their group for close scrutiny. The workshop is a versatile and dynamic way for students to share their work and receive critical feedback from their peers and tutor. Students will be able to use the workshop to discuss any problems around their writing, such as inspiration, structural difficulties, creative blocks etc.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Meet a regular deadline on a creative work.
2. Present and defend their own creative work to a group of their peers.
3. Read closely and give constructive feedback on another writer's work.
4. Listen to constructive feedback.
5. Assess the success or failure of aspects of their own work.
6. Articulate what makes another writer's work successful and apply those same principles to their own work.
7. Develop a deeper understanding of the mechanics of literature.
8. Experience the reality of the drafting process involved in writing.
9. Familiarize themselves with critical vocabulary needed to analyse and interpret works of literature; acquire knowledge of the historical development of literary forms, genres, styles, and conventions.

COURSE OUTLINE

Each week a number of students will present their work-in-progress to the group. Overseen by the tutor, the group will then give feedback on the work which will have circulated on email and been read closely beforehand. Discussions on aspects of the work under consideration, be it formal or content-based, will develop naturally in response to the particular piece of work and needs of the student. All students in the group will be expected to fully engage in the work up for discussion. The tutor will then summarise the discussion in conclusion and direct the student towards any relevant reading material. Students will be encouraged to re-present a new draft of the piece in response to the critical feedback when it is their turn again.

It is important to note that the workshop will be offered each semester. Each semester's workshop is self-contained, graded solely on that term's work, meaning a student is free to take the workshop once, or as many times as they wish.

REQUIRED TEXT

Online material directed by the tutor.

James Wood, *How Fiction Works*, Vintage.

Terry Eagleton, *How to Read Literature*, Yale

SUPPLEMENTARY READING LIST

Declan Kiberd, *Irish Classics*, Granta

Christopher Booker, *The Seven Basic Plots*, Continuum.

Margaret Atwood, *Negotiating with the Dead: A Writer on Writing*, Cambridge University Press.

Michael Schmidt, *The Novel*, Belknap Press

Post-war Irish Novels.

ASSESSMENT/GRADING

The grading is cumulative and will involve the following types of assessment and their weighting:

1. Classroom participation, including attendance / active involvement in classroom activities - 50%
2. Two pieces of creative fiction or other forms such as stage-play/screen-play. (2000 min words)
- 50%

The grading scale used by American College Dublin is the following: A (80-100%), B+ (70-79%), B (60-69%), B- (55-59%), C+ (50-54%), C (40-49%), D (35-39%), F (below 35%).

POLICIES

Attendance is mandatory and only medical reasons can provide an excuse for missing a class. In all written assignments students should take care to avoid plagiarism, that is, appropriating the words and ideas of others without acknowledging the source. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will result in a disciplinary procedure and possible failure in the course.