

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
COURSE OUTLINE

**SECTION I**

SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER

CRTW 537

COURSE TITLE

WRITERS WORKSHOP – OA

ALTERNATE TITLE(S):

WRITING IN THE DIGITAL AGE-OA  
NONFICTION WRITING-OA  
FICTION WRITING-OA

TYPE COURSE

NON-FEE

OLDER ADULT

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to meet the interests of older adults in writing short stories, novels, poetry, memoirs, and articles for publication or self-improvement. Course covers creative nonfiction, memoir/personal narrative, and fiction techniques for writing short stories and novels. Topics include how to analyze and critique writings, digital writing skills, and an introduction to poetry writing. (FT)

LECTURE/LABORATORY HOURS

108

ADVISORIES

NONE

RECOMMENDED SKILL LEVEL

NONE

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Social Responsibility  
SDCE students demonstrate interpersonal skills by learning and working cooperatively in a diverse environment.
2. Effective Communication  
SDCE students demonstrate effective communication skills.

### INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (CONTINUED)

3. Critical Thinking  
SDCE students critically process information, make decisions, and solve problems independently or cooperatively.
4. Personal and Professional Development  
SDCE students pursue short-term and life-long learning goals, mastering necessary skills and using resource management and self advocacy skills to cope with changing situations in their lives.

### COURSE GOALS

1. Learn to interpret, analyze and critique a piece of writing.
2. Understand the techniques necessary to compose a piece of nonfiction, memoir/personal narrative, poetry or fiction.
3. Learn to recognize writing genres.
4. Learn digital writing skills.
5. Learn how to compose and publish an original literary work.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Compose original work and clearly articulate thoughts and ideas in writing.
2. Utilize creative writing techniques.
3. Analyze and critique works including content, craft, style, and theme.
4. List creative writing genres.
5. Demonstrate appropriate use and application of digital writing techniques.
6. Explain the publication process.

## SECTION II

### COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE

1. Creative Writing Techniques
  - 1.1. Dialogue
  - 1.2. Characterization
  - 1.3. Point of view and voice
  - 1.4. Structure
  - 1.5. Setting
  - 1.6. Imagery
2. Creative Writing Genres
  - 2.1. Non-fiction
    - 2.1.1. Memoir
    - 2.1.2. Biography
    - 2.1.3. Journalistic writing
    - 2.1.4. Travel writing
    - 2.1.5. Food writing
    - 2.1.6. Letters to the editor
    - 2.1.7. Humorous writing

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

- 2.2. Fiction
  - 2.2.1. Short story
  - 2.2.2. Novels
  - 2.2.3. Flash fiction
- 2.3. Poetry
- 2.4. Drama
- 2.5. Writing for children
- 3. Discussion, Analysis and Critique
  - 3.1. Content
  - 3.2. Craft
  - 3.3. Technique
  - 3.4.
  - 3.5. Style
  - 3.6. Theme
- 4. Publication
  - 4.1. Literary journals
  - 4.2. Work submittal
    - 4.2.1. Cover letters
    - 4.2.2. Standard manuscript format
    - 4.2.3. Rejection strategies
  - 4.3. Other avenues to publication
- 5. Digital Writing
  - 5.1. Online articles
  - 5.2. Emailing
  - 5.3. Texting
  - 5.4. Tweeting
  - 5.5. Blogging
  - 5.6. Social media

APPROPRIATE READINGS

Reading assignments may include, but are not limited to, instructor prepared materials, instructor selected websites, and publications related to creative writing.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Writing assignments may include, but are not limited to, composing original literary works; fiction, nonfiction or poems.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS

Outside assignments may include, but are not limited to, reading published pieces of literature for discussion in class.

### APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE CRITICAL THINKING

Assignments may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Read and analyze a piece of published work in terms of content, technique, craft, style, and theme for discussion in class.
2. Read and analyze an unfinished piece of a work, in terms of content, technique, craft, style, and theme. Clearly articulate the piece's strengths and formulate concrete suggestions.

### EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated based on attendance, participation in class exercises, ability to provide constructive criticism of student works, and their ability to evaluate themselves in terms of improvement on performance criteria and objectives.

### METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

The primary methods of instruction will include, but are not limited to: lectures, laboratory, group discussions, audio-visual aids, guest lectures, and field trips. This course, or sections of this course, may be offered through distance education.

### TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

*The Making of a Story: A Norton Guide to Creative Writing*, Alice LaPlante, W. W. Norton & Company, current edition

*A Poetry Handbook: A Prose Guide to Understanding and Writing Poetry*, Mary Oliver, Mariner Books, current edition

*The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry*, Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux, W. W. Norton & Company, current edition

*Points of View: An Anthology of Short Fiction*, James Moffett, Berkley, current edition

*What If? Writing Exercises for Fiction Writers*, Anne Bernays and Pamela Painter, William Morrow Paperbacks, current edition

*The Poetry Home Repair Manual*, Ted Kooser, Bison Books, current edition

*Old Friend From Far Away: The Practice of Writing Memoir*, Natalie Goldberg, Atria Books, current edition

Supplies: Reading and writing materials.

PREPARED BY James Smith DATE August 1, 1986

REVISED BY Instructional Services/SLO's Added DATE May 7, 2015

REVISED BY: Tara Gilboy and Esteban Alvara DATE: March 7, 2018

Instructors must meet all requirements stated in Policy 3100 (Student Rights, Responsibilities and Administrative Due Process), and the Attendance Policy set forth in the Continuing Education Catalog.

REFERENCES:

San Diego Community College District Policy 3100  
California Community Colleges, Title 5, Section 55002  
Continuing Education Catalog