

Course Outline: Creative Writing: The Art of Storytelling

Course: Creative Writing: The Art of Storytelling, **Authors:** Teresa Chang and Annie Hartnett—Educators, Writers, Former Teachers

Unit 1: Introduction to Storytelling

- history and evolution of storytelling
- introduction of the fiction writer’s toolbox

Unit 2: Characterization

- Overview
- Case studies (examples from public domain, both of traditionalists who use the tool in a conventional way and rule breakers who do not)
- Practice
- Assignment: character study
- Workshop

Unit 3: Setting

- Overview
- Case studies (examples both of traditionalists who use the tool in a conventional way and rule breakers who do not)
- Practice
- Assignment: one-page description of a place
- Workshop

Unit 4: Plot

- Overview
- Case studies (examples of traditionalists who use the tool in a conventional way and rule breakers who do not)
- Practice
- Assignment: plot diagram
- Workshop

Unit 5: Point of view

- Overview
- Case studies (examples of traditionalists who use the tool in a conventional way and rule breakers who do not)
- Practice
- Assignment: two versions of the same one-page story, each told from a different point of view
- Workshop

Unit 6: Dialogue

- Overview
- Case studies (examples of traditionalists who use the tool in a conventional way and rule breakers who do not)
- Practice
- Assignment: one page of dialogue that tells a self-contained story
- Workshop

Unit 7: Description

- Overview
- Case studies (examples of traditionalists who use the tool in a conventional way and rule breakers who do not)
- Practice
- Assignment: one-page description of a person, place, or thing that attempts to convey a specific mood
- Workshop

Unit 8: Style

- Overview, including voice, tone, imagery, figurative language, and diction
- Case studies (examples of traditionalists who use the tool in a conventional way and rule breakers who do not)
- Practice
- Assignment: a single scene written in two distinct styles
- Workshop

Unit 9: Drafting, Revising, and Publishing a Short Story

- Targeted workshop of draft to assess the use of each tool
- Structured workshop of revised manuscript
- Structured workshop of final manuscript
- Publication of final draft