



CREATIVE WRITING AS A SHOWCASE FOR DIVERSITY

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AGENDA

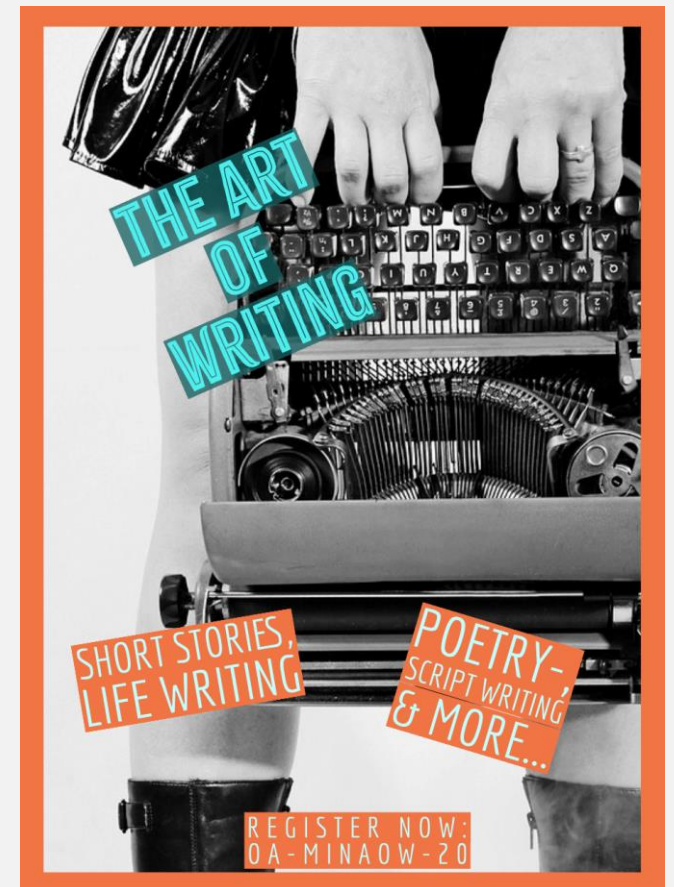
- The Art of Writing minor
- A safe learning environment
- Love poetry
- The memoir
- Activity

THE ART OF WRITING

- An exploration of self through writing (fiction as well as nonfiction)
- Creative writing devices, such as plot structures, immersive settings, characterisation, imagery, metaphor, etc.
- A community of writers who **enjoy a safe space** to experiment, share, give and receive feedback

Specific vehicles for self-exploration and expression:

- Poetry Writing
- Life Writing



A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Workshops in groups of max. 9 students
- Everyone gets to know each other quickly
- Establish rules in the first workshop session
- Everyone is on equal footing
- Everyone shares their work each week and the rest of the group provides feedback

Feedback guidelines are provided:

- Always critique the piece, not the author
- The purpose is to elevate what exists, not deny or argue its existence
- Feedback questions help keep the writer in the driver's seat. Feedback should not be time for ego bashing.

LOVE POETRY

A page-long draft of a love poem

Write to a loved one or about one.

Write about a lover, friend, family member (even a pet),
or love itself.

Purpose is to show love, which can be respect,
appreciation, and connection.

Topics covered: obsession, heartbreaks, meaning of love,
daily love, married life, quaint quirks, and the
relationship.

Work to make the love visible, tangible, and concrete.

Write at least one feedback question.



THE MEMOIR

1,500 words

A collection (3) of snapshots from life connected by a theme

Purpose is to show growth

Each snapshot is centred around a turning point

Topics students have covered:

self-love, leaving a toxic relationship, an ode to scouting, abusive childhood, becoming an aunt, drug- and alcohol abuse, religion, racism, identity and mental/physical health

Every experience is **valid, based on fact and personal truth**

Write at least one feedback question




ACTIVITY


 Choose an assignment:

 - **Love Poem**


 - **A paragraph from your memoir**

 The handout will provide guidelines.

 You have 15 minutes to write

 Then, exchange your work in groups of 3 and discuss each other's work.

 You have 15 minutes (5 minutes each)

 The other side of the handout will provide guidelines on how to give feedback.

TIPS

Plan smaller group workshop for several reasons

- Picking the students to be in the group
- Teaching writers how to plan
- Allowing readers to learn to respond
- Working with bad writing to make it good through feedback questions (can be given)
- Allowing nonbinary writers space

Large classroom workshops (20+) are used in the higher education writing programs, but HU Bachelor minor does not use them.



RECOMMENDED READING

Murphy, Donald. (2004). *A writer teaches writing*. Revised second edition. Heinle, Boston. Chapter 9 covers the history and setup of the writing workshop. Murphy's more sensitive handling has replaced Elbow's model laid out in *Writing without Teachers*.