

School of English

Full Name: Creative Writing

Short Name: Creative Writing

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Una Mannion umannion@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught: Hilary

### **Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this course a student should be able to:

1. generate original ideas for fiction
2. demonstrate skills in narrative craft, including characterization, story structure, voice, point of view, dialogue, aesthetic use of language and description
3. read texts closely with a view to understanding the method of their composition and what craft and techniques can be applied to own writing
4. critically evaluate and discuss the value of literary experimentation across forms and genres
5. develop analytical and editing skills in order to evaluate own work in progress and that of peers
6. give considered and constructive feedback to others on literary works in progress
7. demonstrate ability to revise texts in response to feedback from peers and instructors
8. produce a work of fiction that has been reimagined, developed, and edited through workshop process

Learning Aims:

Content:

In the Art of Fiction students are introduced to a range of technical and imaginative concerns in creative writing. Through close reading of literary texts, exercises, and experimentation, we will develop our narrative craft, including plot, characterisation, voice, point of view, and language. Close attention will be given to the scene and how to build the narrative tension that keeps a reader turning the pages. We will focus on how writers do what they do, the technical strategies they deploy and consider how these might be used in our own work. Our writing will also develop by attention to the work of our peers and through close analysis and revision of our own work through writing workshops. Students must be willing to participate in workshops, giving and receiving considered and constructive feedback.

This course is intended for students who have already been writing fiction in their own time, and who wish to develop their work in a more formal structure. Teaching will take place in small group workshops to facilitate the attention to detail such a course requires. Class numbers will be capped at 10 students. The course contains a reading element, including both works of fiction and other books relevant to the art of writing fiction.

**Assessment Details:**

Number of Components: Two

First component: Fiction: 90% of overall mark.

Students will be required to submit a work fiction that has been workshopped in the class.

Word Count of Fiction: 4,000/5,000

Second Component: Observational Journal: 10% of overall mark. No word count given.

**Preliminary Reading List:**

The Art of Fiction: Reading List 2025

Andrew Cowan, *The Art of Writing Fiction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2024)

Lucy Caldwell, ed., *Being Various* (2019)

Anne Enright, *The Gathering* (2007)

Mariana Enriquez, *Things We Lost in the Fire* (2016)

Annie Ernaux, *Exteriors* (1993/2021)

Sarah Hall, *Madame Zero* (2017)

Paul Murray, *The Bee Sting* (2023)

Single Stories/ Novellas

Colin Barrett, 'Whoever is There, Come on Through,' *The New Yorker*, December 2017

Raymond Carver, 'The Bath' *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (1981) and 'A Small Good Thing' *Cathedral* (1983)

Teju Cole, 'Incoming', *The New Yorker* (November 2023)

Claire Keegan, *Foster* (2010)

**How to apply for this course:**

Please Note: Students who have been assigned a place on Eoin McNamee's MT Creative Writing module will not be able to take a place on this module too.

School of English

Students must submit a short sample of their fiction, 2 A4 pages at most, together with a short covering letter about what writing they have done so far. This should be delivered by email to Elaine Maddock [maddocke@tcd.ie](mailto:maddocke@tcd.ie) by 12 pm on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Students who will be doing a CW Capstone are eligible to apply for and take this module.

Please note:

- **Curricular information is subject to change.**
- **Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.**