

Writers' Breakfasts: No Prerequisites

Response Forums *with Julie Nondorf*

These forums will explore both specific current events and general topics of interest by providing an opportunity for reflection and discussion in a safe, fair, open and well-maintained environment. Participants will think, write, listen, share and debate on specific topics.

Introduction to Spiritual Writings *with Karen Aiken*

Are you looking to explore spiritual and metaphysical writings, but you are not sure where to begin? Karen will introduce contemporary books for suggested reading geared toward personal growth and healing. There will also be some discussion on these books to get you started on the right path.

Character Development *with Brian Barnes*

Whether you are writing a novel, short story or play, you need to know your characters before you put them on the page. Students will build an in-depth back story and genealogy for a character they plan to use. Brian will explain the importance of knowing your subject's background before the subject ever appears in the story. Other applications of building back stories will be discussed as well.

Human Interest Stories: Writing So Others Care *with Marie Boyum*

Looking for a great way to break into print? Newspapers and magazines always want good human-interest stories. This interactive workshop will reveal how to write about people in ways that interest readers while bringing out the best in your subject. Additionally the workshop will include tips for asking the best questions, interview

etiquette, development of an article theme around your subject, how and where to find subjects, suggestions for where and when to sell your story and the debate of querying before you write or writing before you query.

Smashing Writer's Block (Literally!) *with Marie Boyum*

Practical and unique exercises, ideas and inspirations (many you've never even heard of) that will get your pen back to the paper and your fingers flying over the keys. Students will gain a new creative spark that will get those writing juices flowing again, have fun, and learn new and different ways to look at things.

Writing Workshops: Some Prerequisites Apply

If you have not completed a prerequisite, but feel you should be in the class, you may petition the instructor for admittance or speak with one of the directors.

Fiction Workshop Seminar *with Julie Nondorf* —One night only

This overview seminar prepares students to participate intelligently in the objective critique and workshop of their peers' work. Based on an open feedback style of communicating and emphasizing both a checklist and a written comment format, this process leads to more effective, publishable writing.

Horror Stories *with Brian Barnes* —Halloween night only

During a vacation in 1816 an eighteen year old girl named Mary took a bet that she could not write a ghost story. The story this young woman crafted became known to the world as *Mary Shelly's Frankenstein*.

Now Prose Nest offers the same challenge to you. Join us for a night of fun, fear and the dangerously thin line between horror and humor. This *night of horror* will encourage participants to explore the dark side of their writing. They will learn the basic constructs involved in all good ghost stories and “real” ghost stories will be shared during discussion. The night will end with volunteer readings of the tales constructed that evening. All writers will leave with a story to share over campfires or with the optional flashlight-under-the-chin, spooky sound effects at your own risk.

The Best Writers are Readers *with Julie Nondorf*

Students will learn how to dissect and analyze relevant literary fiction as a means to becoming a more polished writer. Based on The Five Elements approach, this course includes lecture and discussion of characterization, plot, setting, point of view and theme.

Elements of Fiction – Short Story with Workshop I *with Julie Nondorf*

Through an alternating schedule of lectures and workshops, students will learn the art of crafting the short story. This class is based on the Five Elements Approach, and overviews the basics of writing characterization, including dialogue and point of view.

Elements of Fiction – Short Story with Workshop II *with Julie Nondorf*
Prerequisite: Elements of Fiction – Short Story Workshop I

A continuation of the first Elements of Fiction class, students will work on the basics of writing Plot, Setting and theme. Workshops are included.

Screenplay Writing I *with Brian Barnes*

Students will become familiar with the basic concepts behind writing a screenplay. The focus will be on the three act framework, character development and the hook advance to the next act.

Screenplay Writing II *with Brian Barnes*

Prerequisite: Screenplay Writing I

In this continuation course, students will collectively write a three act screenplay and perform it in class. We will also watch a film and discuss the screenplay structure based on the elements discussed in the first class.

Women Poets: Writing Women’s Lives I *with Jean Preston*

This course will focus on the lives and works of women poets, both more and less familiar. Along with learning the basic “language of poetry,” students will read about and discuss the lives and works of these women poets to discern how (or if) the personal life experiences of these women influenced their poetry. In preparation for Part II of this course (where, should they decide to go on, students will write and workshop their own poems), students will participate in various writing exercises and begin keeping a journal of their own daily life experiences, observations, and ideas.

Women Poets: Writing Women’s Lives II *with Jean Preston*

Prerequisite: Women Poets I

In this continuation of Women Poets: Writing Women’s Lives, students will write, workshop and revise their own work. Ideas for poems will come from class exercises from the Part I class and from the students’ journal entries. The course will culminate in a student reading.

Intensive Writing Classes

Putting the Power into PowerPoint *with Pippin Michelli*

Students must have laptop computer to bring to class with PowerPoint (or the free equivalent downloadable from Open Office).

Learn how to make your presentations more informative and enjoyable for your audience! This class will be based on materials from a presentation or paper the student has either given or planned to give, and it will end with each student giving a ten minute presentation competently, enjoyably and running to the allotted time. Students will be redirected from their own anxieties to planning for and controlling the situation in light of audience needs as part of the writing process.

Build as You Go Bibliographies *with Pippin Michelli*

Students must have laptop with internet access and a library card (WiFi will be available for work in class)

Part of writing for academic or professional audiences includes preparing a reference list (or further reading / bibliography), with or without annotations. Leaving that job to the end produces author panic and an irrelevant, incomplete, and undirected reading list. Preparing it on the fly during research produces a valuable tool for the author, and a useful list for the reader. For some purposes, it even provides the "meat" for an introductory section or chapter. It's powerful and fun!

Students will use an old paper by themselves or their children (high school level is fine), or a published piece of journalism by someone else. Over several weeks, they will reconstruct the research and its bibliography, accounting for every claim made in the original piece. The

bibliography will be annotated and iterated repeatedly as research progresses to chart the discovery, verification, correction and expansion of the reference list, such that the writer can return to it after a considerable gap and quickly reconstruct or continue the process.

This class is great for anyone who is working on a thesis, a non-fiction piece or novel, or is interested in journalism.

Classes Coming in 2008!

An in-depth metaphysical writings class

Business Writing Seminars

Public speaking workshops

Professional Writing Seminars

Intro to Writing for beginners

Intensive Critique groups

Your name and its Numbers

Writing book proposals, query letters
and other necessities

Writing for the Internet

Responding to Art through Poetry,

Responding to Poetry through Art

Real Men write Poems!

Writers' share circles

Meet the Editors night

And many, many more!!!

Writers' Breakfasts are held at

Carolyn's Coffee Connection

Workshops and Classes are held at

The Kemper Center, Kenosha