

Certificate in Fiction Writing

Programme Specification and Unit Descriptors

Awarded by West Dean
1 years, part-time



Programme Specification

The Certificate in Fiction Writing course is delivered in three weekend course units spread across the year, self-directed study and a final submission of 3,000 words of fiction and up to 500 words of critical reflection.

This course seeks to bring together the key elements of writing fiction into one continuing programme and to support the development of skills in characterisation, voice, plot and structure, and points of craft.

Each weekend unit will be based in the inspirational environment of West Dean College's historic rooms. Each morning will be devoted to informal lectures, group discussions of key texts and themes, and writing exercises. In the afternoons, you will have time to work on your own writing, as well as the opportunity to take up an individual tutorial. Writers can submit 500 words in advance, for feedback during the tutorial. The course is aimed at writers who wish to commit to an extended programme of study without having to make a significant time commitment.

Aims

- Introduction
 - To introduce you to the key skills and knowledge that underpin fiction writing and the development of the novel. These will include the organisational skills required for plotting, character development and narrative technique. It will also introduce you to constructive and focused critical reflection of your work and support the development of rewriting/drafting skills.
- Skills Development
 - The course will offer a stimulating and varied learning environment to enable writers to develop their skills around characterisation, point of view and narrative drive. Writing exercises, along with discussion and textual analysis, will be the key modes of learning.
 - The course will facilitate constructive critical thinking/reflection and cover redrafting, narrative drive and the development of voice.



Unit Descriptors

This course is designed for writers who want an extended and cohesive course on fiction writing, delivered by successful authors and teachers. The course delivery mirrors that of the MA programme in Creative Writing and Publishing offered at West Dean. It offers a deeper and broader raft of teaching, designed to enable you to take on a piece of longer fiction. At the end of the third unit, you will be asked to submit the first 3,000 words of a Work-in-Progress for feedback from the tutors, plus a critical reflection on the work, and your development as a writer.

Unit 1: Character and Point of View

- Ideas generation, testing ideas and thinking like a writer (Friday evening)
- Building character
- Point of view

Unit 2: Plot & Place

- Structure and plot
- Sense of place (and time)
- Narrative drive

Unit 3: Writing Your Book

- Show, don't tell
- Dialogue
- A writing workshop in which you will get feedback on your work from your colleagues and tutor

Final writing

On completion of the course, you will submit the first 3,000 words of a piece you have developed on the programme, and a critical reflection of up to 500 words. This submission mirrors the monthly work required of MA students.

Completion

On successful completion, you will receive a Certificate of Completion and be offered an interview for the MA in Creative Writing and Publishing, should you wish to continue your studies and project. The MA is set up to facilitate the production of a completed novel.

Please see the [website](#) for details on entry requirements, fees and how to apply.