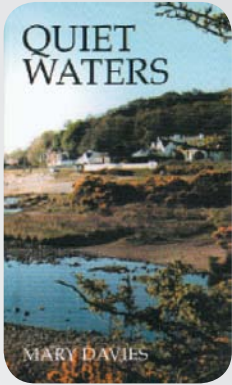




Creative Writing 2: I-Lines

Course Author: Sara Maitland

Level 2 (HE5), 60 Credits



Mary Davies

'The OCA course gave me incentive to write. Since then I have written 2 novels. The first *Quiet Waters* (self-published) sold 600 copies in 5 months. My second novel *Shifting Sands* will also be self-published in spring this year. I am now 84 and considering a third novel.'

Aims of the course

The course helps students to:

- practice independent creative writing within the genre of first person non-fiction
- increase awareness of the formal requirements and on-going practice of this genre
- develop informed and appropriate critical models, of own, and others' writing
- develop second level skills in researching, drafting, editing and presenting creative work and in responding to constructive suggestions/criticism
- create, develop, edit and finish a small body of work, showing diversity and understanding.

Course content

The course offers students a developmental and directed learning pathway, within a context of considerable choice and freedom. Each unit (of 5) is inter-related. The course book offers background theoretical and historical information. Its core is a collection of 9 pieces of creative non-fiction by living authors, accompanied by essays of self-analysis and process-description of their own work by these writers. It also contains clear instruction and outline of expectation; and via the 'learning journal' strategies for self-criticism. It contains tools for a required unit on research.

Students have considerable flexibility as to the style and content of their assignments. The learning experience is two-fold: the course material offering a solid framework and the tutor/student one-to-one relationship offering structure and direction.

Teaching methods

Distance learning is via 5 postal/e-mail tutorials, working through the course with one assigned tutor. All tutors have both face-to-face teaching experience and practitioner experience (publication in the genre is a minimum requirement). Students deliver assignments based on the course instructions and on tutors' guidance.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course students will have:

- explored the structure, form, historical context, limitations, and specific strengths/problems of personally based non-fiction
- drafted and edited self-generated texts; and learned discrimination and choice in the deployment of these skills in relation to form and technique
- participated in direction and design of their own learning experience
- read widely in both contemporary and earlier personally based non-fiction.

Assessment requirements

The student submits approximately 12,000 words of personal non-fiction – either as a single piece or as up to 4 different units (based on the assignments and freely edited/ revised on course completion) together with a reflective account. Detailed information on assessment is provided in the course materials and Student Handbook.

Please note that assessment is not mandatory unless the student wants accreditation of their work.

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