Many of you believe in the following:

- *Creativity is an inborn gift*
- *Craft cannot be taught*
- *Writers work only through divine inspiration*
- *Great writing happens spontaneously*

What if you are told that most of these are but myths? Anyone with a command on language, with an unflinching will and patience to practice, could succeed at writing well. This course provides an opportunity to learn the art of writing, to polish your craft, and to explore two genres of writing viz., poetry, short story.

We will learn the craft, share our precious efforts, and give constructive feedback to peers. Designed in a workshop model, this intensive creative writing course relies on class interaction, peer learning, reviewing, reading the masters and above all writing profusely.

**Modules:**

- **Understanding Creativity:** How to tap the elusive creative process? Exploring the role of culture, language, technology on writing.
- **Writers on writing:** Reading the masters across time and culture and learning how to harness creativity to produce work of art.
- **Being and Becoming a Writer:** Developing every day practices to hone writing skills.
- **Poetry**
- **Poetry Workshop** (Reading and reviewing each other’s works)
- **Short Story**
  - Plot, Structure, Characters, Dialogue, Time Frame, Point of view, Dealing with conflict, “Twist”, Revision
- **Short Story workshop** (Reading and reviewing each other’s works)
- **Tips on traditional and self publishing**
**Grading scheme:**

Weekly peer reviews: **30 marks**

Journal & Blog entries: **20 marks**

Final submission: **50 marks**

**Note:** Any instance of plagiarism will result in “F” grade.

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**Attendance Policy:**

*Needless to say, attending classes is mandatory. In case of any emergency, inform the Instructor.*

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**Prerequisite:**

A writing sample has to be sent to the instructor before the course registration.

Length: 2000 **words short story or extract/2 sample poems/1000 words life writing.**

Email the instructor.

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**What will you learn?**

- Understanding and appreciating principles of writing
- Skills writing fiction and poetry
- Editing written work
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Publishing
- Learning how to be creative on command
Resources:

* Becoming a Writer – Dorethea Brande*

Creative Writing: A Workbook with Readings – Ed Linda Anderson

The Cambridge Introduction to Creative Writing – David Morley

Selected poems by Robert Browning, Robert Frost, Billy Collins, Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Plath

Fiction and non-fiction by: George Orwell, O’Henry, Anton Chekov, Shirley Jackson, Salman Rushdie, Alice Walker, Jhumpa Lahiri and many more

“Understanding Creativity and Creative Process” NPTEL lecture series by Prof Neelima Talwar

*The Portable MFA in Creative Writing* by New York Writers’ Workshop