CREATIVE WRITING OPTION 2016 – 2017 (10 ECTS)
ONE SEMESTER OPTION
TO BE TAUGHT IN BOTH MT AND HT
SENIOR SOPHISTER ONLY

Option description:

This twelve week course will focus on fiction. It 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.

There will be three main elements:
* set exercises to develop the craft of writing
* a reading element, including fiction and texts concerning fiction to be discussed in class
* workshopping of fiction generated by the students themselves.

Students will be expected to produce considerable amounts of text in the course of the term, and to meet frequent tight deadlines. They will also have to be prepared to have their own writing discussed in class. Assessment will be based on 5,000 words of fiction (6,000 max). This may be a story, stories or an extract from a novel.

Applying for the option:

Students must submit a short sample of their fiction, 2 A4 pages at most, together with a short covering letter about the writing they have done so far. This should be delivered as hard copy in an envelope clearly marked: ‘for Deirdre Madden, SS CW application’ and put in the wooden post-box outside the School of English office by Monday, 25th April 2016.

Students who are abroad on Erasmus, and ONLY these students, may apply by email directly to me at dmadden@tcd.ie The same deadline applies to everyone. Students will be informed by Monday, 23rd May 2016 as to whether or not they have been accepted for the Creative Writing option. A booklist and further information will be circulated in due course to students who have been successful.

*Students may apply for both the Creative Writing option and the dissertation option on their option preference form, but they CANNOT take both options
* There will be a meeting in on Wednesday 20th April 2016 at 2.00pm, venue TBC at which I will talk about this course with students interested in applying, and I will answer any questions students may have.

Deirdre Madden

Learning Outcomes for SS Creative Writing

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

1 read texts with the eye and understanding of a writer rather than a critic.
2 Transfer knowledge acquired from their reading to the making of their fiction.
3 Organise the time spent on writing in an efficient and productive manner.
4 Organise their papers and notebooks in an efficient and productive manner.
5 Construct narrative.
6 Write convincing dialogue.
7 Create engaging and convincing characters.
8 Maintain a coherent timeframe within a work of fiction.
9 Create the sense of a physical environment within a work of fiction.
10 Generate original ideas for fiction.
11 Translate lived experience into fiction.

Deirdre Madden