

Sophister Module Description Template 2023-24

Full Name: Creative Writing: The Writer's Vision

Short Name: The Writer's Vision

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Deirdre Madden dmadden@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught: Hilary

Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this course a student should be able to:

- 1 generate original ideas for fiction
- 2 Translate lived experience into fiction
- 3 Construct narrative
- 4 Create engaging and convincing characters
- 5 Maintain a coherent timeframe within a work of fiction.
- 6 Be aware of the importance of observation in writing.
- 7 Have a greater appreciation of the visual world, both as a writer and a reader.
- 8 Create the sense of a physical environment within a work of fiction.
- 9 Organise time spent on writing in an efficient and productive manner.

Learning Aims:

Content: This course 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. Teaching will take place in small group workshops to facilitate the attention to detail such a course requires. Class numbers will be capped at 10 students. The course contains a reading element, including both works of fiction and other books relevant to the art of writing fiction. Students will be required to produce considerable amounts of work in the course of the term, and will be expected to meet frequent tight deadlines. Students must be prepared to have their work discussed in class, and to contribute to the discussion of the work of their peers.

While this is for the most part a straightforward CW workshop there will be a particular focus on looking and seeing, and on how we translate what we see into language, so that the reader may share our vision. A common problem in writing, particularly when one is starting out, is that the writer has a clear image of something in their mind, but fails, for various reasons, to communicate that vision to the reader. There will be a particular focus on this issue, and students will be taught to train their eye while also cultivating their imagination.

Students will be required to keep an observational diary for some weeks as part of this course, and this will account for 10% of the final overall mark.

Assessment Details:

Number of Components: Two

First component: Fiction: 90% of overall mark.

Students will be required to submit one or two pieces of fiction. If two pieces are submitted they should be of roughly equal length

Word Count of Fiction: 4,000/4,500, (5,000 max)

Second Component: Observational Diary: 10% of overall mark. No word count given.

Preliminary Reading List if Available: Reading list to follow.

Please Note: students may take EITHER this course or Eoin McNamee's MT CW course.

How to apply for this course:

Students must submit a short sample of their fiction, 2 A4 pages at most, together with a short covering letter about what writing they have done so far. This should be delivered by email to Elaine Maddock emaddock@tcd.ie by 12 pm on Friday, 26th May.

Students will be informed in June if they have been accepted for this option.

Students may apply for both this course and Eoin McNamee's course on their option preference course, but they CANNOT take both options.

Students who will be doing CW Capstone are eligible to apply for and take this course.

Please note:

- **Curricular information is subject to change.**
- **Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.**