

Sophister Module Description Template 2025-26

Full Name: Creative Writing: How The Weather Was

Short Name: Writing and Perception

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Eoin McNamee emcname@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught: Hilary

Year JS/SS: SS

Learning Outcomes: On finishing the course a student should be able to:

- 1 Use the perceived world to generate writing.
- 2 See writing structure and opportunity in their own experience
- 3 Write dialogue
- 4 Bring the authentic to their work
- 5 Build writing structure outwards from their own experience
- 6 Recognise an opportunity for writing
- 7 See what is dramatic in their own viewfinder
- 8 Use a range of writing tools, voices, tenses and tones to bring life to their work

Learning Aims:

- Earnest Hemingway talked about always including the weather in your work. By that he meant not just the weather but the lived texture of experience. The class aims to show students how the structures of art and writing are contained in what is in front of them, rather than something which is plucked out of the air.
- Content: This course is aimed at students who have been writing and are ambitious for their work rather than beginners. There is no absolute requirement to read work in class- writing is an exposing business-but it will be taught in a workshop format and discussion and exposure of writing is the heartbeat of a workshop. Work will be generated both within the class and outside of it to be brought into the workshop. The atmosphere will be encouraging and supportive. The ultimate aim is to clear the imaginative space in front of the writer and to allow them to enter it

Assessment Details:

- Number of Components: One. Students will either submit a piece built through the classes, or an original piece written over the course of the class.
- Name/Type of Component(s) Written submission.

- Word Count of Component(s): 5000 words
- Percentage Value of Component(s): 100

Preliminary Reading List:

- Denis Johnson Jesus' Son
- Lorrie Moore Birds of America
- Dermot Healy A Goats Song
- Wendy Erskine Sweet Home
- Natalie Diaz When My Brother Was an Aztec

How to apply:

Students should submit a sample of 500-800 words of their fiction on the module selection form and submit the form by email to maddocke@tcd.ie.

Students may apply for both this module and Una Mannion's Creative Writing module but can only be allocated a place on one module if successful.

Students who will be doing the Creative Writing Capstone are eligible to apply for and take this module.

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.