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| **SS119****Creative Writing: Poetry, Fiction & Memoir****Dr Ryan Dennis** |
| **RyanDennis@themilkhouse.org****Whatsapp: +353 85 110 4201****Class: MY125 (classroom 2, 079 Aras Moyola), Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-11am** |

**Module Description**

The ability to write well is not an innate talent reserved for the lucky few, but a craft that is earned slowly through paper cuts, piles of crumpled notes, and late hours spent revising. This class will engage the forms of fiction, nonfiction and poetry on the level of craft, rigorously exploring what makes good writing, from the larger concepts of form to the mechanics of the sentence. Expect to write. Class time will be spent in lecture, completing writing exercises, and considering each other’s work. Various events in the community, including a public reading, are also required. Those who use the course properly can anticipate being a better writer by its conclusion.

**Learning Outcomes**

* Improve the ability to work with the larger concepts of fiction and nonfiction, such as writing about the self, dialogue, grounding the narrative, interior monologue and narrative distance.
* Hone the writing skills on the level of the sentence, writing for clarity, tone and voice.
* Use the mechanics of poetry purposefully to affect.
* Learn how to approach your work with a keen eye to improve it in the editing process.

**Required Texts**

* Required reading will be available on Canvas and/or presented in class.

**Method of Assessment**

**30% Participation**

Being engaged is essential to getting the most out of the course. Be an active and thoughtful participant in discussion. Be sure to attend class and events. Most importantly, keep improving as a writer.

**20% Fiction Submission (800-1000 words)**

This “mid-term” submision allows student to receive feedback on their work before the final submission. **Due date: Sunday, June 29th, midnight (on Canvas).**

**40% Final submission (c. 3000-3500 words)**

This final submission should demonstrate the skills you have learned throughout the course. You may choose fiction or nonfiction. It may not be an extension of the previous submission. **Due date: Thursday, July 10th, midnight (on Canvas)**.

**10% Written Reflection**

Please also submit a two-page (double spaced) “reflection” that considers what you have learned in class, what questions you still have, and what you see as your next steps as a writer. You may also want to think about how your writing, and you as a writer, has changed in the last month. No particular form is required. **Due date: Friday, July 11th, midnight (on Canvas).**

**Policy on Late Work**

Late submissions are penalised at -2 points per day. Should you encounter circumstances that warrant a short extension for a submission, or foresee such a situation, please let me know and I will do my best to make appropriate arrangements with you.

**Academic Integrity**

Along with collusion and other forms of academic dishonesty, plagiarism (the unacknowledged use of another person’s words or ideas) is one of the most serious academic offences, as it involves fraud and misrepresentation. In a creative writing course it is particularly heinous, and will result in the maximum punishment, as well as your dog being held for ransom until suitable compensation has been achieved.

**Course Schedule**

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| **Monday, June 16th, 12:30pm** | * Introduction/characterization
 | At 12:30pm instead of 9:00 (MY243) |
| **Tuedsay** **June 17thst** | * Showing and not telling/ Dialogue
 | Classes start in the normal 9:00am slot, MY125 |
| **Thurday, June 19th** | * POV/Interior Monologue
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| **Tuesday,** **June 24th**  | * Intro to nonfiction
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| **Thursday,** **June 26th** | * Characterizing the “I”/ grounding the essay
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| **Tuesday,** **July 1st** | * Beginnings and endings
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| **Thursday,** **July 3rd** | * Use of metaphor
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| **Tuesday,** **July 8thth** | * Poetry mechanics: the line
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| **Thursday,** **July 10th** |  Poetry mechanics: the turn |  |
| **Friday,****July 11th** | Concluding remarks | 12pm-1pmLocation: TBA |
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**Events**

**Class reading**. Monday, July 2nd, 6pm Charlie Byrnes Bookshop.

 Students will have a chance to read their work in the iconic Galway bookshop. This is a required

event.

**Literary Tour of Galway**. Time and Date to be determined in class.

This walking tour will try to reveal of the rich literary tradition of Galway City, as well as the historical context it occurred in. This event is required.

 **Readings by authors in Galway.** Depending on the schedule of upcoming events, there will be opportunities to attend readings of published authors in Galway.