



Kitchen Table Literary Arts Creative Writing Society

2018-2019

# Course Catalog

These are general course descriptions and the tentative 2018-2019 course schedule. If you have any questions about the course summaries, modalities, or tuition schedule, please do not hesitate to contact administration ([info@kitchen-table.org](mailto:info@kitchen-table.org)).

## PREREQUISITES

Writers are accepted for Creative Writing Society (CWS) courses upon review of their online application, which includes information about their writing background, writing goals, and in some cases a writing sample. The courses are designed to engage writers in college-level study, but college credits nor formal degrees are required to take a course.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CWS writing courses are primarily generative with a strong focus on creating new work. Literature classes are driven by reading assignments with reflective and critical discourse and/or written responses to the material.

### *Where Are We? Techniques for Establishing Setting in Your Work*

Explore setting as a literary element of fiction that establishes both space and time in narrative movements. Through excerpted readings, introspective discussion questions, exploratory writing prompts, and a case study that intersects place and history, we'll learn to identify the narrative techniques that create lasting, compelling scenes and use them to bring setting to the fore in our own writing. **Features work from Tayari Jones, Roxane Gay, Nnedi Okorafor, and Zora Neale Hurston**

### Memory as Memoir: Mining Memory for Story

Memoirs give us an opportunity to write about a specific time in our lives or a particular set of experiences that have shaped our lives. Mining our memory for story is no simple task; it involves understanding how memory works, accepting its fallibility, and using its most compelling parts to tell stories that ask questions of ourselves and the world around us. This course challenges writers to not only explore the functions and types of memory that fuel storytelling, but also unpack their own memories to mine for the most compelling stories. **Features work from Lucille Clifton, Syreeta McFadden, and Dara Mathis**

### Quit Playin'!: Finish the First Draft of Your Manuscript

This word count-driven writing course that pushes you to produce! The course provides resources, best practices, and writerly cheerleading to push writers toward completion of a full manuscript draft. The class, which includes weekly word count goals, encourages writers to get out of their own way and commit to simple “butt in the chair, fingers on the keyboard” writing by asking pointed questions about writing habits, writing goals, and writer self-esteem. **Features tools, resources, apps, and work from Trelani Michelle, Alice Walker, Zandria Robinson, Crunk Feminist Collective, Sandra Cisneros, and a special case study: *The Case of the Two Rihannas***

### Get Off FB and Blog! Stop Giving Away Content and Start Your Own Blog

Posting long status updates that get a lot of likes-loves-anger-blah, shares, and comments? That hot topic status update or clever comment could have been a blog post! This extensive course in everything blog introduces readers to different blogging styles, various blogging platforms, and tips for deciding what and when to write to fit your blogging goals. **Features blogs by Luvvie Ajayi (*Awesomely Luvvie*), Damon Young and Panama Jackson (*Very Smart Brothas*), Nikki Walton (*CurlyNikki*), and more!**

### Learn ‘Em Then Break ‘Em: Basic Elements of Fiction

This quick and dirty guide to the basic literary elements of fiction will give you the foundational support you need to develop your own approach, your own style, and your own voice within your own unique and compelling prose. Never had a writing class? Need a refresher after many years? This course is for you! **Features work by Dorothy West, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Gloria Naylor**

## Introduction to African American Literature I: *Black Women's Voices from Middle Passage to Great Migration*

Take a journey into our shared history with an introductory course in African American Literature. The course provides resources that explore the historical context and literary brilliance of some of our earliest known Black women poets and writers. Starting with the horrendous period of chattel slavery in the United States, delving into the Reconstruction Era, and ending with narratives of the Great Migration, this course is an excellent choice for history and literature lovers alike. **Features work from Annie L. Burton, Harriet Ann Jacobs, Phyllis Wheatley, Frances E.W. Harper, Dr. Isabel Wilkerson, Dr. Allyson Hobbs, and Toni Morrison**

## Protest Poetry: *The Personal is Political*

Audre Lorde wrote, “When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid,” and the sentiment resonates like a call to arms. The connections between poetry and activism are as many as they are strong. In this course, we read and discuss poetry as resistance, poetry as activism, and poetry as witness across the intersecting social, political, and personal struggle for liberation. **Features work from Gwendolyn Bennett, Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Walker, Carolyn Rogers, June Jordan, and Audre Lorde**

## Them Fighting Words: *Character and Conflict in Fiction*

Compelling conflict makes for compelling story. In this short course steeped in foundational fiction concepts, writers will develop a firmer understanding of character development, characterization, internal versus external conflict, and classic conflict types. **Features work from Jamaica Kincaid, Alice Walker, and Zora Neale Hurston**

## **MODALITY OVERVIEW**

Kitchen Table Literary Arts CWS classes are offered in **five modalities**. These different types of classes are designed to meet the different needs of writers who are juggling their passion for literary art with the demands of everyday life. While the course types are flexible, the courses work best when writers come to the writing and learning environment focused and committed to creating their own work and supporting the work of others.

### Self-Paced (Online)

- All readings and reference materials are provided at the start of the course and writers choose at what pace to complete the readings and assignments
- The course work is organized into weeks and has administrative support
- Writer has the length of the course engagement period to complete the course (four, eight, and twelve-week engagements currently available)  
*\*Engagement is the amount of time allotted for course completion. Writers work at their own pace and all material is available for the duration of the engagement period*
- Each week there are short assigned readings and/or videos with questions related to the reading, you, and your own writing
- Each week's lesson is organized into short, related modules that are easy to access and revisit
- There are no discussion board assignments
- Administrative feedback is given on the final writing assignment, which is submitted by the writer at the end of the engagement period

### Self-Guided Cohort (Online)

- Course material is organized into weeks (four, six, and eight-week classes currently available)
- The course begins and ends on specific dates, and all writers enrolled in the course make up a **cohort** of writers taking the course together
- The course has administrative support but is **self-guided** rather than instructor-led
- New material is released each week rather than all at once, and each week's lesson is organized into short, related modules that are easy to access and revisit
- Each week there are short assigned readings and/or videos with guided discussion-based questions related to the reading, you, and your own writing
- Discussion board assignments invite the **cohort** to talk to each other about the lesson, writing assignments, and impressions
- Each week there are writing assignments with word count specifications and guidelines related to the week's lesson, in addition to critique assignments to give feedback on each other's work. **Cohort participants are**

**strongly encouraged to provide relevant, constructive feedback on all assignments**

### Instructor-Led Cohort (Online)

- Course material is organized into weeks (four, six, and eight-week classes currently available)
- The course begins and ends on specific dates, and all writers enrolled in the course make up a **cohort** of writers taking the course together
- Course has administrative support and is led by a **teaching artist**
- New material is released each week rather than all at once, and each week's lesson is organized into short, related modules that are easy to access and revisit
- Each week there are short assigned readings and/or videos with guided discussion-based questions related to the reading, you, and your own writing
- Discussion board assignments invite the **cohort and teaching artist** to talk to each other about the lesson, writing assignments, and impressions
- Each week there are writing assignments with word count specifications and guidelines related to the week's lesson, in addition to critique assignments to give feedback on each other's work. **Teaching artist provides feedback on writer work, and the cohort participants are strongly encouraged to provide relevant, constructive feedback on assigned critiques**

### Instructor-Led Cohort (Hybrid)

- Course material is organized into weeks (four, six, and eight-week classes currently available)
- The course begins and ends on specific dates, and all writers enrolled in the course make up a **cohort** of writers taking the course together
- Course has administrative support and is led by a **teaching artist**
- Course schedule includes **scheduled workshop days w/ face-to-face and/or virtual meet-ups**
- New material is released each week rather than all at once, and each week's lesson is organized into short, related modules that are easy to access and revisit

- Each week there are short assigned readings and/or videos with guided discussion-based questions related to the reading, you, and your own writing
- Discussion board assignments invite the **cohort and teaching artist** to talk to each other about the lesson, writing assignments, and impressions
- Each week there are writing assignments with word count specifications and guidelines related to the week’s lesson, in addition to critique assignments to give feedback on each other’s work. **Teaching artist provides feedback on writer work, and the cohort participants are strongly encouraged to provide relevant, constructive feedback on assigned critiques**

### Instructor-Led Intensives

- Course is organized into full-day or half-day **intensive workshops**
- Courses are generally single topic and include generative activities, workshop opportunities, and knowledge-sharing panel discussions

### Modality Comparison Chart

	Self-Paced (Online)	Self-Guided Cohort (Online)	Instructor-Led Cohort (Online)	Instructor-Led Cohort (Hybrid)	Instructor-Led Intensive
Self-Guided	X	X			
Cohort of Writers		X	X	X	X
Discussion Board Assignments		X	X	X	
Writing Assignments	X	X	X	X	X
Cohort Feedback		X	X	X	
Instructor Feedback	X		X	X	
New Material Each Week		X	X	X	
Material Released All at Once	X				X
KTLA Administrative Support	X	X	X	X	X
Face-to-Face and Virtual Meet-Ups				X	X

## TUITION

Tuition is due in full at time of registration. Refunds (less an administrative fee of \$25) are only granted if requested in writing within the first week of the course, and there are no refunds for self-paced courses.

### Self-Paced (Online)

Four-Week Engagement	\$75
Eight-Week Engagement	\$125
Twelve-Week Engagement	\$180

### Self-Guided Cohort (Online)

Four-Week Course	\$150
Six-Week Course	\$225
Eight-Week Course	\$300

### Instructor-Led Cohort (Online)

Four-Week Course	\$200
Six-Week Course	\$300
Eight-Week Course	\$400

### Instructor-Led Cohort (Hybrid)

Four-Week Course	\$280
Six-Week Course	\$380
Eight-Week Course	\$480

## PARTICIPATION

Writers are expected to actively participate in the course through discussions, assignments, and critiques. Writers who finish online course material with an **80% engagement score** (score is determined by activity within the course via discussion posts, comments, assignment submissions, and critique completions) will earn a certificate of completion and a special discount on future courses.

The course is always better the more you participate, and participation takes time. **You are a writer. Give YOUR writing the attention and priority it deserves.**