



International Institute of Modern Letters

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o Te Ao

SHORT FICTION WORKSHOP

CREW 254 SHORT FICTION WORKSHOP HE KŌRERO PAKI - (20 points)

This course is convened by **Sue Orr** in the first trimester and **Anthony Lapwood** in the second trimester. It is a “hands-on” course in writing short fiction. While wide reading in the genre is an essential component, this is not an academic class so much as a practical course to support and extend you as a writer. You will produce your own portfolio of short fiction and you will also discuss and analyse excellent and diverse contemporary examples of the form by writers from Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world. We look at matters of craft and process, from the use of free indirect style all the way to how to deal with “writer’s block.”

The workshop is the heart of this course. The bulk of our time is spent sharing and discussing examples of our own work in progress. You will submit stories to workshop on two different dates. In each of the first three weeks, all twelve students complete a short exercise for discussion. You will also keep a journal, which serves as a record of your own reading and writing progress.

Students have the opportunity to meet with the convenor during the course, to discuss their work one-on-one. In recent years we’ve enjoyed visits from local published writers such as Kirsten McDougall, Tina Makereti, and Maria Samuela, all of whom have published award-winning short stories.

The convenors write: “This course often attracts an eclectic group of students, from old to young, from merely curious to already committed. All have a lot to contribute. Exercise work can often trigger unexpected results, surprising us with what we are capable of, while the workshop process is an opportunity to see one’s work through the eyes of others. This is immensely valuable to any writer, allowing us to identify our strengths, develop what works and shed what doesn’t. There are no rules to follow, only the question ‘does it work?’ but the fun really begins when we try to get from that deceptively simple formula to the why and how.”

Please note: CREW 254 focuses on realism, both in the course content and in the students’ written work. Applications will be assessed with this in mind. Anyone who wishes to write fantasy during the course should instead consider applying for CREW 355 (World-building workshop) with Elizabeth Knox.

Read more about **Sue Orr**: www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters/about/staff/sue-orr

Read more about **Anthony Lapwood**:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters/about/staff/anthony-lapwood>

International Institute of Modern Letters
Victoria University of Wellington, P O Box 600, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

ENQUIRIES: Tel (04) 463 6854 Email modernletters@vuw.ac.nz
Website www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters

How to Enrol

Enrolment in CREW 254 is limited to 12 students. The prerequisite is 40 points and an appropriate standard in written composition. Because of demand for places, however, the quality of the writing sample which accompanies applications is critical in deciding admissions.

Application and enrolment: must be lodged online by going to university home page and follow the links: www.wgtn.ac.nz/

We recommend prospective applicants should visit the How to Apply page of the website. Go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters for more details.

Workshops

Where: at the IIML, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus

When:

Trimester 1: Mondays 2 -5pm

Trimester 2: Fridays 2-5pm

Assessment

Assessment is based on a folio of writing submitted soon after the final workshop. Folios are examined on a pass/fail basis by the course convenor.

Reading

The readings will be available online on Nuku. The course convenor may make reading suggestions based on your individual project. There are also two books that will give you some idea of what to expect from our workshops, as well as providing resources for developing your work. *Mutes & Earthquakes* (VUP) brings together essays and creative work from a wide range of writers who have connections with the IIML. A more recent publication, *The Exercise Book* (VUP), presents writing exercises across a variety of genres, including poetry, prose and scriptwriting.

Please note that our workshops are not a classroom version of a writing manual: we do not teach a specific set of predetermined skills. Our aim is to develop the imaginative capacity and individual literary skills of emerging writers in a stimulating workshop environment.