



Creative Writing for the Absolute Beginner

Community Education – Fall Quarter 2026/2027

Course Information:

Time: **1:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

Room: **Boschma Campus, Room 206**

Dates: **Thursdays 10/29/2026 through 12/10/2026**

Course Title:	Creative Writing for the Absolute Beginner
Instructor:	Amy Webber, BA, MFA
Email:	Amyjwebber13@gmail.com

Course Description

Creative Writing for the Absolute Beginner is the class you've been wanting to take. Have you ever promised yourself that you would "someday" write a book of fiction, a young adult book, or romantic historical fiction? This class will provide you with the foundational skills to write creatively for any number of applications. We will share our stories as you create your portfolio of inventive, original works of fiction that will impress your family and friends.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

Outcome #1: Discuss fiction and other authors' work

Outcome #2: Identify your protagonist, what their goal is, and why it's so important, then how they will overcome the obstacles to achieve it.

Outcome #3: Demonstrate effective storytelling

Course Schedule

1. **Week 1: 10/29/2026. Ideas and Inspiration.**

Finding your “big idea” or “ideas” is an exploration of your imagination and the message you want to bring to your audience. We will conceptualize our creative stories and cultivate their foundations.

2. **Week 2: 11/5/2026 – Character Development.**

We will highlight the importance of developing characters with strengths, flaws, and motivations to create emotional connections and advance the narrative.

3. **Week 3: 11/12/2026 – Story Elements.**

We will explore how adding obstacles and challenges for characters enhances plot and maintains reader engagement. We will discuss story elements and outlines.

4. **Week 4: 11/19/2026. Setting.**

We will show how sensory language and vivid descriptions enhance readers' visualization and engagement in the story's setting and beyond.

5. **Week 5: 12/03/2026 – Authentic Dialogue.**

You will learn how to create authentic dialogue that reflects the characters' personalities, reveals their traits, and advances the plot. We will explore how balancing action, dialogue, and exposition maintains a steady story pace

6. **Week 6: 12/10/2026 – Revising and Editing.**

Arguably, this is where the art comes in. Revising your first draft gives you the space to create the characters your readers will love forever, the settings that feel real, and the messages and themes that bring the heart of the story to life.

Resources: Recommended references for further study:

- Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott
- Steering the Craft by Ursula K. Le Guin
- Save the Cat! Writes a Novel by Jessica Brody (based on the books by Blake Snyder)
- The Artful Edit by Susan Bell
- It Was the Best of Sentences, It Was the Worst of Sentences by June Casagrande

Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
- If you don't see it right away, check your junk/spam folder.
- Evaluations are anonymous and come directly from Clark College.
- If you do not receive one, contact Continuing Education at: Email: continuingeducation@clark.edu Phone: 360-992-2939

Inclement Weather

If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at www.clark.edu. Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe. If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email. Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.

More Classes

Looking for more Community Education courses? Visit: www.clark.edu/cce/