



Write Your Memoir

Community Education – Fall Quarter 2026

Course Information

Time: 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Ridgefield Campus, 7000 Pioneer St.

Dates: Tuesdays 10/27/2026 through 12/1/2026

Room Number: 206

Course Title:	Write Your Memoir
Instructor:	Amy Webber, BA, MFA
Email:	Amyjwebber13@gmail.com

Course Description

Write Your Memoir and give this gift of love to your family. This class will provide you with a roadmap for writing like a pro. Every memoir has a greater purpose: a lesson or lessons that you learned and want to share with your family and friends. Perhaps you want to capture a fleeting moment like a photograph and write it down before life changes so much that it's forgotten. We will write (please bring whatever you need to write in class) about these unique experiences to entertain your family, enlighten the next generation, inspire others to do great things, instruct those curious about your journey, provide catharsis, and capture your remarkable story on paper.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

Outcome #1: Discuss published memoirs and their design.

Outcome #2: Identify the theme, audience, and structure for their memoir.

Outcome #3: Demonstrate effective non-fiction storytelling

Course Schedule

1. **Week 1: 10/27/2026. Finding your voice within your memoir.**
Writing a memoir can be like writing to your best friend. This class will help you find your voice and open the door to your memories.
2. **Week 2: 11/3/2026 – Story structures.**
Many times, sticking with a tried-and-true story structure will give you the direction you've been looking for to get your story on paper.
3. **Week 3: 11/10/2026 – Approaching difficult subjects.**
Everyone has a story (or more) from their life that is important to tell, but difficult to approach. You'll go home with strategies to broach those subjects.
4. **Week 4: 11/17/2026. Identifying your memoir's theme and "takeaway."**
You have a message to share, and we'll explore themes others have used in their memoirs to convey it. You will have the opportunity to identify the theme of your memoir.
5. **Week 5: 11/24/2026 – Creating scenes to encourage your reader to enter your story.**
Creating effective scenes isn't only important for books of fiction; you include strong scenes in a memoir to help others understand the situations you describe. We will practice writing strong scenes.
6. **Week 6: 12/1/2026 – Setting up Writing Schedules.**
It's not easy to find time during a busy schedule to write. We will discuss creating your personal Writing Schedule and how effective it can be to have a team of fellow writers supporting one another during their journey.

Resources

- **Writing the Memoir by Judith Barrington**
- **Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott**
- **Steering the Craft by Ursula K. Le Guin**
- **Writing Your Legacy by Richard Cambell, M. Ed. And Cheryl Svensson, Ph.D.**

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/