



Community Education Spring 2024

Memoir Writing Weekend Workshop

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Course Description:

Are you writing your memoir and need some support? Do you want to write your memoir and don't know where to start? This weekend workshop class will provide you with the roadmap to write like a pro within a setting of supportive people who are all on the same journey. Every memoir has a greater purpose: a lesson or lessons that you learned and want to share with your family and friends. We will capture your unique experiences so you can entertain your family, enlighten the next generation, inspire others to do great things, instruct those curious about your journey, or for catharsis, and to get your remarkable story on paper.

Learning Outcomes: *As a result of taking this course, students will:*

Outcome #1: Understand themes that run through literature and other memoirs.

Outcome #2: Identify the structure and outline for their full memoir

Outcome #3: Demonstrate effective non-fiction storytelling

Course Schedule:

Saturday, April 27, 2024:

Writing prompts to find your voice
Story Structure and outlines

Sunday, April 28, 2024:

Identifying the moral of your story or "takeaway"
Deciding on next steps and setting up writing routines

Selected Bibliography/Resources:

Below, you will find recommended references and books to give you more information about effective writing and storytelling. If you have a special interest in a topic we discuss, please ask me for further references.

- **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.**
- **Love is a Family: Memoir of a Lifetime by Charlotte Schmidt**

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes, the email will be delivered to your “junk mail,” but we can assure you it’s from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation, please email Continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.

Inclement Weather:

If the College cancels due to icy conditions, you can find this on the college website: www.clark.edu. If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous, we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case, you will receive both a phone call and an email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

More class information:

We will write, so please bring anything you need to do some “free writing” during class, such as a computer, paper, pen/pencil, or iPad. We will also share our writing with each other if you feel comfortable doing so. This class will be a safe space for honing your writing skills and sifting through your life experiences.

You will be provided with handouts to help you organize your thoughts, help you with your story structure, and plans for finishing your memoir. If you’d like to bring a notebook to gather them, please feel free.

These are the first questions I will ask in the first class: 1) What is your favorite memoir (if any)? (Title, Author, Theme.) 2) Who are you writing your memoir for? (Yourself, your children, your grandchildren, the world.) 3) Do you read books, and if so, who is your favorite author?
I can’t wait to meet you!

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage: www.clark.edu/cce/