



Community Education Columbia Tech Center Campus

18700 SE Mill Plain Blvd

Vancouver, WA 98683

Winter 2025

Memoir Writing

Thursdays, Jan 9 - Feb 6, 2025, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm, Room 338

Instructor: Amy J Webber BA MFA

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Course Description:

Write Your Memoir and give this gift of love to your family. This class will provide you with the roadmap to write 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. Let's capture those unique experiences to entertain your family, enlighten the next generation, inspire others, 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: Discuss published memoirs and their design.

Outcome #2: Identify their memoir's theme, audience, and structure.

Outcome #3: Demonstrate effective non-fiction storytelling

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2025: Finding Your Voice through Memoir

Week 2: Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2025: Story Structure

Week 3: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2025: How to Write What's Difficult

Week 4: Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2025: Identifying your memoir's theme and "takeaway"

Week 5: Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2025: Next steps and self-publishing tips

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 be writing, so please bring anything you need to do some “free write” 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 as well as sifting through your life experiences.

You will be provided with handouts to help you organize your thoughts and writing. Please feel free to bring a notebook to gather them.

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/