

Fiction Workshop with Kanza Javed

Course Description:

“All writing, all art is a wild leap off a cliff because there is nothing to support you. You are creating something out of nothing. It comes from within,” Jhumpa Lahiri's words have power. They resonate. They stay.

We will delve into the craft and the art involved in writing fiction. We will explore and examine the fundamental elements of good storytelling (character, conflict, dialogue, themes, setting and narrative style), read variety of fiction, write together as a group and learn how to workshop fiction. Of course, the aim for the course is to understand what constitutes “good writing,” how do we decide who to write for, how do we critique other writers, how do we preserve this challenging time in our fiction and how do we seek agents and publishers?

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn how to critically read and examine literary texts
- Distinguish different genres in fiction
- Identify different elements of storytelling in texts
- Understand your individual creative process through in-class writing
- Learn how to revise a short story

Mode of Communication: We will be using Google Meet for this class.

Course Goals:

We will be reading and discussing short stories by Jhumpa Lahiri, Wells Tower, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and other writers. We will also be examining craft talks by various writers to dive deeper into the creative process, the writing and the subsequent drafting and revisions.

The classes will be divided into reading, writing and discussion time.

Instructor:

Kanza Javed is the author of the novel, *Ashes, Wine and Dust*. She holds an MFA in Fiction from West Virginia University and an MPhil in English Language and Literature from Kinnaird College for Women (Lahore). She was a short-term fellow at University of Massachusetts and a research scholar at Arizona State University. Her work has been featured in American Literary review, The Punch Magazine and Salamander. Her short story “Rani” won the Reynolds Price Prize for Fiction 2020, and was shortlisted at the Salamander Short Fiction Award.