



ADVANCED FICTION WRITING

SHORT COURSE

with Kanza Javed

Writing fiction is the act of weaving a series of lies to arrive at a greater truth."

— Khaled Hosseini

A story was a form of telepathy. By means of inking symbols onto a page, she was able to send thoughts and feelings from her mind to her reader's. It was a magical process, so commonplace that no one stopped to wonder at it."

— Ian McEwan, Atonement

This class will offer writers (preferably those who have taken the *Introduction to Fiction Writing Course* with the same instructor) to continue revising their short stories and novel manuscripts while getting constructive feedback and response from peers. This course will focus on reading works of accomplished writers and decipher how they construct meaning and themes in their fiction and resonate with a universal audience (without any pandering). We will also be paying attention to the already-studied elements of fiction (characters, plot, setting/world building, point of view, voice, structure and dialogue) and learn how to maneuver them differently in different fiction pieces. We will discuss how to provide productive feedback, revise work in an objective fashion (develop revision strategies), and how and where to send work after polishing (top literary magazines, agents, MFA programs and writers' residencies).

"A good book isn't written, it's rewritten."

— Phyllis A. Whitney, Guide to Fiction Writing

Writing is a serious endeavor. It is a solitary craft which needs time, discipline, life-long commitment and support in the form of first-readers who help in the early process of revision. This is where fiction peers and workshop become important. Workshopping fiction pieces is the main agenda for this short course. Students who have already learned the way fiction workshops operate through the *Introduction to Fiction Writing Course* will get another chance to showcase their work and receive response.

Course Requirements and Expectations:

1. The students in this class will be expected to do in-class writing prompts. Over the weekends, the students will be assigned readings and writing exercises. This will keep the class discussions thriving.
2. Feedback letters and notes to classmates' stories during the workshop rounds will be expected from each student. The feedback letters should be constructive, critical, and around 300 to 500 words long.
3. Every student is expected to write at least one complete short story (around 2000-5000 words, typed) in this class during the workshop cycle in the short course.
4. Attendance is essential.
5. Participation in class must be based on mutual respect for differences in tastes, interests and skill-set. We will create an atmosphere of understanding and empathy where every writer feels valued, and their work and voice, important and heard.