



- This course is suitable for beginners and improvers
- It is likely that participants will be experienced writers. They will have a basic understanding of the nature of short stories and they will be keen to develop their expertise in this area. However, enthusiastic beginners, willing to read widely and draft their own work, should not be deterred.

### **What will I achieve?**

#### **By the end of the course I will be able to:**

1. read short stories from a variety of authors and assess the merits of those stories
2. read the work of fellow students and offer constructive comments for future development
3. produce short stories of my own in response to a number of writing prompts and offer them up for positive criticism from my colleagues on the course
4. make a keen evaluation of my own short stories with a view to polishing them for publication
5. point to a track record of submissions to various publishing outlets

### **What teaching methods will be used and will there be work outside of the class?**

- The WEA's digital learning platform, Canvas will be used to provide resources or to support lessons, enable assessment, provide learner feedback and for other activities for individuals away from the course. If you want to understand more about our digital learning platform please visit: <http://bit.ly/WEAonline>
- The WEA tutor will use a range of different teaching and learning methods and encourage you and the group to be actively involved in your learning
- You will be expected to carry out a range of activities in your own time
- This course presupposes a keen interest in reading and writing short stories. A willingness to draft work and share critical discussions with others is also very important. The tutor will provide a constructive and guiding presence.

### **What kind of feedback can I expect from the tutor?**

- You will be able to keep a digital portfolio of your work on WEA's digital learning platform, Canvas.
- A range of informal activities will be used by the tutor to see what you are learning which may include quizzes, question and answer, small projects and discussion
- You will have opportunities to discuss your progress with your tutor
- You will be encouraged to share your work with the group and discuss your learning
- You will be encouraged to consider other students work and give your opinions and suggestions
- A file of work will be kept which will help to record your progress
- There will be a number of tasks appropriate to your course such as written work, creating art or craft, video, photography or small projects. Some of these may be marked to help you progress

### **What else do I need to know? Is there anything I need to bring?**

- What you need: You will need an internet connection, speakers, a microphone and a webcam so that you can use our video learning platform, Zoom. If you'd like to understand more Zoom please visit: <http://bit.ly/ZoomSpec>
- You will need a personal email address to join the WEA's digital learning platform, Canvas so that you can receive resources, record your progress and achievement and to work with others and share ideas. If you want to understand more about our digital learning platform please visit: <http://bit.ly/WEAonline>

- Most important will be a willingness to listen to the views of others and take consideration of these views when looking to develop individual work.

### **Pre-course work, reading and information sources**

- There is a wide range of published short stories covering literary magazines, websites and conventionally published books. Course members should have some knowledge of this range and an idea of where they see their own work being placed. Some reading suggestions will be made prior to commencement.

### **Possible next steps after this course (including career opportunities if appropriate)**

- Progress to another WEA course
- Progress to a course with another provider
- Become involved with the WEA in a range of voluntary work and other activities including campaigning as a WEA member
- Become involved as a volunteer for a WEA partner or another organisation
- You could progress to Higher Education courses. Follow link to the PEARL website for information <http://pearl.open.ac.uk/>
- Access the WEA What Next? booklet here <http://www.wea.org.uk/learn-wea/what-can-i-do-next>
- No-one is pretending that publication is easily achieved, but should that occur the opportunity to make further progress will be evident. In any event, the course will provide skills to enable continued satisfaction and enjoyment from writing short stories to take place.

### **Learning with the WEA**

WEA courses increasingly make use of the rich variety of educational tools and material available on the internet and from digital devices. The WEA's digital learning platform, Canvas will play an increasing role in all WEA courses to provide resources or support, or to conduct lessons, enable assessment, provide learner feedback and for other activities for individuals away from the course. It is helpful, although not essential if you have access to a computer or smartphone to support your course.

You can read about your entitlements and responsibilities as a WEA student in our leaflet, Student Handbook here <http://www.wea.org.uk/learn-wea/student-support> This includes information on fees, learning support and financial support. As part of your course you accept our Learning Agreement and Privacy Notice. Full details of the Learning Agreement and privacy notice can be found on our website at <http://www.wea.org.uk/policies>. This applies to all courses you take in this academic year.

You can enrol online for most courses <http://www.wea.org.uk/learn-wea/course-search> or contact: WEA Support Services, Suite 10B Joseph's Well, Hanover Way, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS3 1AB Tel: 0300 303 3464 Email: [courseenquiries@wea.org.uk](mailto:courseenquiries@wea.org.uk)



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