Introduction to Creative Writing C1
Instructor: Pauline Jansen Van Rensburg

Course Description: Students are invited to participate in this introductory course on the techniques and strategies of Creative Writing focusing mainly on fiction forms (novels, flash fiction and short stories) and poetry. The aim of the course is to familiarize students with creative writing techniques and strategies, to further enhance students’ critical and creative thinking skills and to enable them to engage more closely with the English language and to develop linguistic dexterity therein. The class will include reading assignments, studying the art and craft of story writing and poetry making. Both contemporary and classical literary forms will be juxtaposed and there will be numerous activities such as readings, presentations, group discussions, and technique specific writing exercises. Post-colonial and Women writers will be equally represented in this course.

Learning Outcomes: Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the following elements of storytelling: plot, story, scene, summary, point of view, flashback (analepsis) and flash-forward (prolepsis). Course participants will identify these elements in the reading assignments and attempt to utilize these components in their own writing assignments. At the same time, students will be encouraged to use strategies of contemporary poetry in the writing of poems and in the analysis of published poetry.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and participation: No more than two absences are allowed. Students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions and complete the required assignments.

Assigned readings: Students are required to read the assigned texts for each class. In-class discussions based on the assigned readings are to be expected. These discussions contribute to the final evaluation and demonstrate to what extent students’ responses draw upon the sources assigned.

Presentations: Each student is required to give a 5-minute long presentation on a relevant literary, linguistic or creative writing topic or an analysis of a poem or a short story.

Course writing: production of a poetry piece, various creative writing exercises or minifiction (1000 words max.). Students will be expected to produce a poem, short creative writing exercises or a complete minifiction, which will be subjected to an in-class peer critiquing process.

Feedback: The final products will be evaluated by the presence of the components of storytelling covered in class. Course participants are expected to give feedback on each other’s work in a nonjudgmental way (using the Liz Lerman Critical Response Process).
Assessment:

This is a Pass/Fail course. For a successful completion of this course students are expected to fulfill all the requirements listed above. This course has been specifically designed to foster a diverse learning environment. Please kindly inform me about any unseen hurdles that may present a barrier to your learning. Feel free to speak to me at any time about concerns or questions you may have about assignments, activities, or assessment.