



WRITERS' LEAGUE of TEXAS

# FALL 2022 ONLINE CLASSES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Hello, writers!

As the fall approaches, we're so excited to announce the online classes and special events we have planned for the rest of 2022.

If you're writing a novel and are struggling with structure, point of view, pacing, or crafting scenes, we have a class for you. If you're writing a memoir or essays and need help finding your voice or working research into your personal stories, we have classes lined up that are sure to help you out. And if you're hoping to dive into the mechanics of writing mysteries or historical fiction novels, or even worldbuilding in science fiction and fantasy, we've got you covered.

This slate of over 20 classes includes a wide variety of topics with instructors you've met before and with new instructors we can't wait for you to get to know. From a crash course on craft to nailing your novel ending to the nonfiction book proposal and beyond, there's something for everyone in this schedule. Plus, we've put together "The Novelist's Toolkit" Class Package which includes four classes that will help you write your novel from beginning to end and a class package meet-up, so you can meet fellow writers along the way.

But if a class isn't right for you, we're also hosting an in-person craft workshop in Odessa, Texas this September, we have free virtual events lined up every month, and we're ending the year with a new installment of our WLT Saturday Craft Seminar series.

We have so much in store for the rest of 2022 and we hope you'll join us for as much as you can over the next few months. Whether it's to spend time writing with us, or for a class, or a special event, we can't wait to see you this fall.

All the best,  
Sam Babiak  
*Program Director*

## The Writers' League of Texas

(WLT) is the largest literary arts organization in Texas. We're a nonprofit offering programs and services to writers at all stages of their writing careers, from just getting started to publication and beyond. WLT members receive a number of benefits with their membership, including steep discounts on classes and access to member-exclusive programming. To learn more about membership with us, [click here](#).

# CLASS PACKAGE

## THE NOVELIST'S TOOLKIT

*\$236 for members, \$476 for non-members*

This class package aims to help writers get through the beginning, middle, and end of writing a novel. From setting yourself up for success in the opening pages, to the art of pacing and the mechanics of structure, all the way to getting you through the final (and longest) mile, novelists will walk away from these four classes with the tools they need to reach that finish line. We say it all the time – writing a novel is a marathon, but you don't have to do it alone. In addition, everyone who purchases the package will also be invited to an exclusive class package meet-up.

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

***Starting Your Novel: How to Create an Opening in Dialogue with your Ending***  
*with John Pipkin*

A good opening is the key to unlocking the rest of the story. This class is intended to give writers useful strategies and techniques for starting a novel.

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**

***The Components of Novel Structure: Looking Under the Hood of Our Fictional Worlds***  
*with Stacey Swann*

In this class, we'll open up the hoods of our novels to see if all the parts are running at their best. By the end of the class, you'll see your work in progress more clearly and have the tools for your future repairs!

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22**

***The Art of Pacing: Macro and Micro Methods to Keep Your Story Moving***  
*with Chaitali Sen*

In this class, we will explore all of the factors that affect the speed of the story and practice various ways to modulate pacing so that the reader is pulled along compellingly toward the end.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

***The Longest Mile: Finishing, Polishing, and Publishing Your Novel***  
*with Gabino Iglesias*

Landing the ending is one of the hardest things in publishing. In this class, we discuss endings, editing, pitching agents, and starting to build the buzz around your book.

This catalog includes our upcoming online classes and special events for Fall 2022. Click on the event title for more information, including start time and duration, or to register for the class.

All online classes are live webinars on Zoom and are recorded and made available to registrants for one month following the class.

If you have any questions, please email WLT Program Director Sam Babiak at [sam@writersleague.org](mailto:sam@writersleague.org).

# SEPTEMBER

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

### ***Introduction to Fiction Writing: A Crash Course on Craft***

*with James Wade*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

Improving your writing is not unlike improving yourself. It takes discipline, honesty, and a certain amount of grace. In this crash course on craft, we'll explore how style, tone, setting, and voice impact your work, and give you tips and exercises to get better at each of them.

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

### ***Write-in***

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

### ***Member Meet-up***

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

### ***Character Driven & Intricately Plotted Mysteries***

*with Sherry Thomas*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

Learn an approach to mystery writing that focuses on characters and conflict rather than figuring out your plot in advance from bestselling author Sherry Thomas.

## **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

### ***Write-in***

## **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

### ***The Nonfiction Book Proposal: The Basics and Beyond***

*with Cinelle Barnes*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

In this three-hour class, learn what goes into a proposal, why and when you need it, and how to write one that stands out from author, editor, and book coach Cinelle Barnes.

## **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

### ***Third Thursday: Writing and Publishing Short Fiction***

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

### ***WLT Craft + Business of Writing Workshop***

In partnership with Odessa Arts, the WLT Craft + Business of Writing Workshop will include three one-hour presentations from James Wade, Stacey Swann, and Becka Oliver, including writing exercises and plenty of time for questions. PLUS, all registrants are invited to stick around after the workshop for a Happy Hour Meet-up at the hotel's cash bar – a chance to mix & mingle and connect with fellow writers (and your friendly WLT instructors).

***This is an in-person event in Odessa, Texas.***

***\$49 per ticket***

# SEPTEMBER

(continued!)

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

### ***Introduction to Essay Forms*** *with Natalie Lima*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

In this class, we will learn about and explore some of the forms of creative nonfiction, including (but not limited to) flash nonfiction, the braided essay, the memoir essay, and other experimental forms. Then we'll experiment with the forms we learn with in-class writing exercises and prompts. Students will walk away with a better understanding of a variety of essay forms and how they might help them tell the stories of their lives.

## **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

### ***Not Just One of the Gang: Writing Ensemble Casts***

*with Tracy Wolff*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

Want to create powerful characters and relationships that engage readers, sell books, and live on long after the final page is read? In this class, New York Times bestselling author Tracy Wolff will share the psychology and the artistry that goes into putting together a powerful and engaging ensemble cast where every member feels as real, and as important, as your best friend.

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

### ***Strategies for Staying the Course***

*with P.J. Hoover*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

Join award-winning author P.J. Hoover in this inspiring workshop that will offer solid strategies on time management, goal setting, and staying the course even when things get tough.

“The WLT is a  
HUGE ASSET  
and we are  
lucky to have  
such a rich  
array of  
resources and  
opportunities  
to connect  
with experts  
and other  
writers.”

# OCTOBER

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

### ***Starting Your Novel: How to Create an Opening in Dialogue with your Ending***

*with John Pipkin*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

A good opening is the key to unlocking the rest of the story. This class is intended to give writers useful strategies and techniques for starting a novel.

We'll look at a variety of published examples of effective openings, and we'll do some brief in-class writing assignments to identify ways to figure out what kind of opening may work best for your novel. We'll look at how research can be helpful not only for finding useful content for an opening, but also for providing new ideas for new stories. Finally, we'll discuss how the opening of a novel is in dialogue with other parts of the novel.

**This class is a part of The Novelist's Toolkit Class Package.**

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

### ***Write-in***

## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4**

### ***New Member Orientation***

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8**

### ***Drama in the Details: A Day in the Life in Historical Fiction***

*with Sherri L. Smith*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

In this three-hour class, we will talk about historical worldbuilding, pitfalls and assumptions, and how to research the details. We will do a series of writing exercises to see what we know, and where we need to know more. And we'll talk about dialogue—how to make it sound “of the period” but easy on the modern ear. Whether you're new to historical fiction, or a seasoned time-traveler, bring your time period and your notebook. We'll have fun digging around in the past together!

## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11**

### ***Write-in***

## **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12**

### ***Who Tells Your Story: Point of View and Voice in Fiction Writing***

*with Greg Garret*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

Award-winning teacher and novelist Greg Garrett will explore the nuances of voice and point of view to explain why HOW you tell your story can matter as much as WHAT story you tell.

# OCTOBER

(continued!)

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**

### ***The Components of Novel Structure: Looking Under the Hood of Our Fictional Worlds*** with Stacey Swann

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

A book can be a world unto itself, conjured like magic, or a living and breathing animal with a life of its own. But successful novels need both the messy magic of our subconscious as well as our own inner auto mechanic. In this class, we'll open up the hoods of our novels to see if all the parts are running at their best. By the end of the class, you'll see your work in progress more clearly and have the tools for your future repairs!

**This class is a part of The *Novelist's Toolkit Class Package*.**

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20**

### ***WLT On the Craft of Writing: Horror Novels***

“Ya’ll at WLT  
always deliver,  
and it’s always  
a pleasure.

For those of us  
who write,  
you are nothing  
short of  
**AMAZING.”**

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22**

### ***The Art of Pacing: Macro and Micro Methods to Keep Your Story Moving*** with Chaitali Sen

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

Neither readers nor writers want a story to stall, sputter along, or sprint ahead at breakneck speed. Every part of your story has an appropriate pace, but how do we find it? In this class, we will explore all of the factors that affect the speed of the story and practice various ways to modulate pacing so that the reader is pulled along compellingly toward the end.

**This class is a part of The *Novelist's Toolkit Class Package*.**

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22**

### ***From Query Letters to Artist Statements: Mastering Writing About Your Own Creative Work*** with Courtney Maum

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

Writing about our own writing is one of the hardest—but most vital skills for aspiring authors and published authors alike. Author of 5 books and noted book coach Courtney Maum will show you how to pen agent query letters, artist statements and bios that will get you past the velvet rope.

## **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26**

### ***Memory or Myth: Making Your Memoir Memorable***

with Deborah D.E.E.P Mouton

*\$59 for members \$119 for non-members*

When it comes to writing from memory, many memoirists struggle going beyond the narratives they've heard from loved ones all their lives. In this three-hour class, former Poet Laureate, Deborah D.E.E.P Mouton, guides participants through a generative workshop that teaches new and exciting entry points into memoir that will help you create a more powerful and dynamic narrative. If you are in need of a new way to approach your work or stuck in the middle of a memoir project, this course is for you.

# NOVEMBER

For the last several years, we've spent November bringing our writing and our writing community together by hosting group Write-in sessions throughout the month. This November, join us for ten virtual Write-in sessions, three hours each, thirty hours total.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1** **Write-in**

## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2** **Lessons from Screenwriting: Creating Compelling Scenes** *with Bev Chukwu*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

In this course, we'll look at the ways the scene is capitalized to make the most compelling narrative journeys in screenplays. This, however, is a class for writers of all disciplines. Whether you're an emerging screenwriter, a short story writer, a novelist, or a playwright, this course will empower you with the tools for elevating your writing. A compelling scene isn't a story, but a compelling scene has the power to shift momentum and shape your reader's relationship with your work; scenes keep them excited!

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

### ***Finding Your Voice in Nonfiction***

*with Charlotte Gullick*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

Readers are drawn in by both a compelling story and an engaging voice. Yet, voice can be such an elusive element in writing, especially when it comes to nonfiction. This class will help you find your voice through the reading of vibrant examples and targeted writing exercises. We'll have fun and develop a sense of who we are on the page.

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5** **Write-in**

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8** **Write-in**

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10** **Member Speedwriting**

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12** ***The Longest Mile: Finishing, Polishing, and Publishing Your Novel***

*with Gabino Iglesias*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

Landing the ending is one of the hardest things in publishing. In this workshop, we discuss endings, editing, pitching agents, and starting to build the buzz around your book.

**This class is a part of The  
Novelist's Toolkit Class Package.**

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12** **Write-in**

# NOVEMBER

(continued!)

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

***Write-in***

## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

***Writing an Identity  
Not Your Own***

*with Alex Temblador*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

In this three-hour class, Mixed Latinx author Alex Temblador will discuss one of the most contentious topics in creative writing: crafting a character whose identity is not your own. This class will highlight the self-awareness and self-reflection required of writers who wish to write characters of differing identities, as it is through facing one's own bias and sitting in discomfort that writers may create authentic and realistic characters.

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

***Third Thursday:  
Writing About Mental Health***

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

***Write-in***

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

***Worldbuilding Tactics for  
Science Fiction and Fantasy***

*with Matt Bell*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

In this class, we'll study worldbuilding in science fiction and fantasy, building on examples from writers like Ursula K. Le Guin, N.K. Jemisin, China Miéville, Octavia E. Butler, and others, then put our ideas into practice with in-class exercises on inventing magic systems and technologies, designing aliens and monsters, and other topics.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

***Write-in***

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

***Write-in***

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

***Write-in***

## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

***Building Character: Creating  
Complex Personalities in  
Fiction***

*with Jennifer duBois*

*\$59 for members / \$119 for non-members*

What makes a character feel memorable, authentic, and persuasive? What tools do writers use to create nuance and multidimensionality in the people they invent? In this class, we'll discuss the characters who have stayed with us and why, while examining the specific craft strategies — including point of view, dialogue, and dramatization — that authors use to conjure them.

## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

***Write-in***

# DECEMBER

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3**

### ***More than Memory: Using Research to Enhance Your Memoir***

*with Ursula Pike*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-member*

Writing an engaging memoir requires more than reflecting on your memories. Using research to bring the larger world into your memoir will enhance your reflections, provide new perspectives, and add compelling layers to the personal experiences you are writing about. In this workshop you will learn research techniques that can deepen your story as well as how not to get lost in your research.

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3**

### ***Write-in***

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7**

### ***Getting Your Foot in the Door: Publishing in Literary Magazines***

*with Meg Eden Kuyatt*

*\$59 for members, \$119 for non-members*

In this class, we'll talk about what literary magazines are, what editors are looking for in submissions, have a "translation" exercise, tips on how to get the most out of a lit mag, tips for approaching writing a cover letter and contributor bio, as well as how to handle rejections. The skills you learn in this session can easily apply to other publication realms, including writing to agents and editors of small book presses.

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**

### ***WLT Saturday Craft Seminar***

*\$25 per ticket*

Join us for a Saturday Craft Seminar featuring a presentation and conversation with an author who has just released a book on the craft of writing.

“This class was excellent. I was blown away by the level of skill. I take a lot of classes with WLT and elsewhere, and this was truly impressive.”