



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE YMCA'S DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER ONLINE WORKSHOPS – FALL 2021

Dear Writers,

While we'd hoped to have some in-person workshops this fall, the pandemic continues to have other plans. Based on feedback from our students and instructors, and considering the small size of our main classrooms at the Downtown Y, we've made the decision to continue with online options for our Fall 2021 workshops and readings. The one exception is Cheryl Strayed's lecture on September 30th; the Everson Museum is a much larger venue than our classrooms, and masks will be required for all attendees.

We hope to see you face-to-face in our Winter 2022 season! Until then, we wish you a safe and productive fall, full of terrific writing!

Phil Memmer, Executive Director

WORKSHOP REMINDERS...

Courses are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

All class times are Eastern.

No classes on 10/11 due to the holiday.

We do not call to confirm registrations; we will, however, call you if there is any problem.

Refunds are not given after a course begins. If a course is canceled, all payments are refunded.

If a course has a required text listed in its description, you will need to obtain that text before the first class meeting.

WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE LEVEL GUIDE

BEG Beginner. These courses are open to all students, but are geared specifically towards new writers. If you are just getting started with a particular genre, this is the place you should start!

INT Intermediate. These courses are for students with previous writing experience, along with some degree of familiarity with writing workshops.

ALL All. Course content is geared to writers of all experience levels and, frequently, all genres. Beginners are welcome, but experienced writers will also find these courses engaging.

PRO DWC PRO/ADVANCED. Space may be limited in these advanced courses for students not enrolled in DWC PRO; a manuscript review may also be required for new students.

G Generative. These courses focus on creating new work through exercises and prompts.

S Seminar. Classes that examine specific elements of literary schools, craft, and/or writing theory in practice, reading often required.

W Workshop. Workshops focus on peer critique and/or revision strategies.

H Hybrid. Classes will incorporate multiple elements according to the instructor's syllabus.

AUD Auditing Available. For select courses only. Auditors do not submit work or enter discussions.

FALL 2021 ONLINE WRITING COURSES

POETRY COURSES

BEG = **H** **Rhythmic Science** with Kofi Antwi. Mondays, 6:30-8:00. 8 weeks, starting Oct. 18. Participants will explore portions of a generative workshop, discuss and analyze poetic elements, create new work through prompts, and discover music and rhythm through poetry and writing.

ALL = **H** **In the Landscape of Contemporary Poetry** with Christopher Citro. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 6. "It's as if I have tossed a postcard / of the ocean into the ocean," writes Laura Kasischke in her poem "My Beautiful Soul." In this recurring poetry workshop, with all different readings each session, we'll discuss recent poetry, then use prompts drawn from our readings to inspire us to create our own new poems.

ALL = **H** **Shaping the Satisfying Final Draft** with Tim McCoy. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting Oct. 5. You've written a draft of a poem: now what? How do you make that into a work that satisfies you and others? We will try various techniques—narrative, sound, figuration—for shaping any poem into work you and others will be excited about.

ALL = **S** **North, South, East, West: A Global Approach to Poetry** with Stephen Kuusisto. Thursdays, 6:00-7:30. 8 weeks, starting October 7. This course will focus on the work of four poets who hail from across the globe. We'll read poems from *Trilogy* by Pentti Saarikoski (Finland); Gabriel Okara's *Collected Poems* (Nigeria); Mahmoud Darwish (Palestine); and *Ming Di (New Cathay): Contemporary Chinese Poetry*. Intended for both writers and readers who love poetry and want to globe trot!

PRO = **W** **DWC PRO Poetry Workshop** with Tim Carter. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:30. 8 weeks, starting October 6. This workshop is for experienced poets whose goal is publication, focused on strong peer critique. Limited space is available for DWC PRO graduates and other advanced poetry students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

NONFICTION COURSES

ALL = **H** **Creative Nonfiction for Scientists** with Mary Jumbelic. Thursdays, 5:00-7:00. 8 weeks, starting October 14. Do you have an analytical mind? Have you always wanted to write more than a scholarly paper? Do you want to bring out your creativity through writing? This is the class for you. Taught by a retired physician and memoirist, it will provide the groundwork for telling your story.

ALL = **G** **Writing for Social Justice** with Nancy Avery Dafoe. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 5. Writing to make a difference, to inspire activism, to help right a wrong, are the purposes behind this workshop in which structures, genres, evidence, and argument frameworks will be explored. This class is for writers with a cause they want to promote!

PRO = **W** **After Inspiration: Long-Form Revision** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Wednesdays, 7:15-9:15. 8 weeks, starting October 6. In this long-form prose workshop, we examine what makes for helpful critique and useful revision. New members are welcome in this continuing workshop.

ALL = **W** **The Fall Flow** with Georgia Popoff. 8 weeks. Two sections: Thursdays, 1:00-3:00, starting Oct. 7, OR Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30, starting Oct. 6. Our popular nonfiction critique workshop continues with weekly comments and detailed table critique that are the essence of this group, which welcomes new members. If you are working on a nonfiction project or need encouragement to resume a writing practice, please join us.

PRO = **W** **Text+Photo/Photo+Text** with Nancy Keefe Rhodes. Mondays, 7:00-9:00. 8 weeks, starting October 4. Typically, when words and images appear together, one serves the other. Images "illustrate" text or text "captions" images. But the two can function as equals. We will consider examples of such successful projects plus participants' own work. New members welcome.

FICTION COURSES

BEG = **H** **The Writer's Life: Phase 1** with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 5. This class will help beginners delve into what makes a successful author. We show how to alter your mindset and remove various obstacles that keep you from fulfilling your literary potential. (Required text: *Bird by Bird*, by Anne Lamott.)

INT = **H** **Fiction Boot Camp Plus** with Megan Davidson. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 7. A forum for critique of new work in a supportive environment, incorporating in-class exercises to generate new work and perspectives on writing. You will receive creative, insightful ideas for further development of writing in progress, discuss technique, and suggestions for outside reading. *Prerequisite:* Two or more DWC writing classes or similar workshops (*Note: No class on 10/21*).

MORE FALL 2021 ONLINE WRITING COURSES

DRAMATIC WRITING

ALL = **H** **Write a Play with Snap, Crackle, and Pop!** with Len Fonte. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 7. Conflict, diction, and disruption are the basic tools of the playwright. We'll explore them in a series of exercises and quickly move into writing a fully-realized 10-minute play or a portion of a longer piece. Appropriate for both first-timers and writers with some experience.

CROSS-GENRE COURSES

ALL = **S** = **AUD** **The Sentence** with Johanna Keller and Charles Martin. Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30. 8 weeks, starting October 6. Maybe the most granular workshop you'll ever take! We'll focus on the sentence, the primary building block of all writing, as we examine, analyze, and learn from contemporary writers using Virginia Tufte's book, *Artful Sentences: Syntax as Style* (required text). We'll write sentences of many varieties, to inspire new work!

ALL = **W** **Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 5. How can LGBTQ+ writers find space for their own work, and identify the multiple literary traditions to which they might belong? This course will involve deep reading of work by LGBTQ+ writers, along with related writing exercises to help you to develop your understanding, voice, and skills as a queer writer.

PRO/INT = **W** **Pattern, Not Formula: Your Book in 15 Beats** with Linda Lowen. Mondays, 5:00-7:00. 8 weeks, starting October 4. Longer works (novels, memoirs) often stumble due to poor pacing and weak narrative spine. Jessica Brody's *Save the Cat Writes a Novel* (required text) offers a practical approach to structure—an "aha!" moment for the stuck writer. Using Brody's book, we'll test drive work-in-progress (*note: no class 10/11 and 11/8*).

INT = **H** **Refining Voice** with Kayla Blatchley. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 7. A fiction and non-fiction workshop dedicated to refining and expanding each author's unique style and perspective. The class will focus on examining student work to become more aware of how the voice is coming through, how it could be refined to come through more clearly, and what the voice tells us about how work-in-progress might proceed.

ALL = **H** **Can We Talk About Why Reading Is (Still) Fundamental?** with Derek Pollard. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 4. Meaningful writing is a dialogue emerging from reading. Highlighting that writing—or enjoyment of writing—is reading outward. We will read, discuss, and respond to writers we find ourselves gravitating toward and participants will help determine the reading list; if we get a bit "literary critical," so much the better, but hardly necessary. You also needn't identify as a writer to participate.

OTHER COURSES

BEG = **H** **Write Your Kids' Book Manuscript ...Today!** with Mike Downs and Sandra K. Athans. Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30. 8 weeks, starting October 5. 500 Words to Fame and Fortune?! Well...perhaps a tiny bit of each. The instructors WILL set you on the path to becoming a published writer. Join in for a fun-filled, informative course on writing for kids. Listen, laugh, and labor over your own manuscript as you receive an insider's overview of children's publishing and essentials to polishing your work.

ALL = **H** **Autumn Songwriting Workshop** with Chris Cresswell. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30. 8 weeks, starting October 5. Participants will explore popular songwriters and receive weekly prompts and feedback for your own creative practice. Bruce Springsteen, Taylor Swift, U2, Saul Williams, Childish Gambino, and others will provide starting points for our own creations, culminating in a performance of work generated during class. Everyone will be expected to share.

ALL = **S** **Fall Reading Series Book Club** with Phil Memmer. Tuesdays, 5:00-5:50. Each week, this book club reads and discusses the latest book by each author in our Visiting Author Reading Series. It's a great way to warm up for each week's Friday night online reading! Best of all? Book Club itself is free... you just purchase the books through the DWC, at a discount! *Please register by 9/20.*

ALL = **H** **Documenting Our Lives** with Sam Azghandi. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting October 4. Explore the media practice known, for lack of a better term, as documentary. Through discussions of reality-based film, video, photography, and web-based projects, along with readings and possibly making a documentary project of your own, we will examine what's involved in seeing "the world out there" through digital storytelling in a self-developed research project. No need for fancy equipment; your phone or tablet is enough!

Questions? Call us at (315) 474-6851 x380, or email dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org.

MORE FALL 2021 ONLINE COURSES

SATURDAY COURSES

ALL = **H** **Writing Books that Excite & Delight: A Peek into Children's Book Publishing** with Mike Downs and Sandra K. Athans. Saturday, September 25, 12:30-3:00. Learn to write for kids! From picture-book fiction and poetry to high-interest, middle-grade nonfiction, gain down-to-earth advice on breaking into this exciting market. Laugh as they re-live their early mistakes, then dig into writing exercises that will prevent you from repeating them.

ALL = **H** = **AUD** **Writing, and Changing, Our Lives, A Master Class with Carolyn Wright.** Saturday, November 6, 12:00-3:00 p.m. The poet Rilke tells us that we must change our lives, but what does that mean? How can we meet the mystery of what is to come, in our own lives as well as in human and natural history? Read poems that engage, welcome, and resist these moments of change. Respond by creating poems, playing with form and structure to summon and deepen images, moments and narratives, to awaken our own sense of adventure and possibility, and to find our way in mind and heart, even in these turbulent and uncertain times.

COURSES FOR TEENS

YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

A Saturday workshop for teens and tweens who are on fire to write! Now celebrating its 10th year.

NUMBERLESS DREAMS

Also on Saturdays, an online writing workshop for teens with disabilities, taught by professional writers with disabilities.

SPEAKING OUT

A new workshop for 9th-12th grade students who identify as LGBTQ+, and their peer allies.

**All teen programs start
on Saturday, October 9th.**

For more information:

Georgia Popoff
dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org
(315) 474-6851 x380
www.ycny.org/dwcyoung-authors-academy.html

REGISTRATION FOR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERS

(Y members from other YMCAs, please see instructions at the bottom of this column):

STEP 1: ENSURE A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS IS CONNECTED TO YOUR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERSHIP. If you are unsure, contact Member Services.

STEP 2: GO TO YMCACNY.ORG/MYACCOUNT. Under the "I Want to Set Up Online Access for My Account" box, click "Find Account." Enter your last name, DOB (mm/dd/yyyy) and zip code.

STEP 3: ENTER THE EMAIL ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP. A secure link will be sent to this address prompting you to create a password.

STEP 4: CHECK YOUR EMAIL. Click the link and create your password (*must include at least 7 characters and contain at least one capital letter and one number*).

STEP 5: GO TO YMCACNY.ORG/MYACCOUNT. Enter your email address and password in the first box, then search for programs and register online!

To take advantage of your free course benefit, use promo code DWCFALL21 when you register.

Please note that you must complete your transaction for your free course, then start a new transaction for any additional courses.

REGISTRATION FOR ALL OTHER STUDENTS:

Register by phone with a credit card by calling (315) 474-6851 x380. If you must pay by check, please call first to reserve your place, then return your form with check payable to YMCA to:

The YMCA's Downtown Writers Center,
340 Montgomery St., Syracuse, NY 13202

Member of a YMCA other than the YMCA of Central New York? You're eligible to take a DWC workshop at the "DWC Member" rate!

<https://ycny.org/dwc>

FALL FACULTY BIOS

Sandra K. Athans is a practicing Literacy Specialist, featured speaker, published literacy author, and Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

Kofi Antwi serves as an assistant editor of *Black Arts Movement Reader*. Kattywompus Press recently published his debut chapbook, *Tidal Wave*.

Sam Azghandi is an Iranian independent filmmaker, actor, and sound designer pursuing his MFA in the school of Visual Performing Arts at Syracuse University. His projects have been screened throughout the United States and Australia.

Kayla Blatchley teaches writing at SUNY Polytechnic in Utica. Her stories have appeared in such journals as *NOON* and *Unsaid*.

Timothy Carter is a poet and educator. His first book, *Remains*, won the 2019 BOAAT Book Prize and was published in November 2020.

Christopher Citro's latest book is *If We Had a Lemon We'd Throw It and Call That the Sun* (Elixir Press, 2021), winner of the 2019 Antivenom Poetry Award. He also teaches at SUNY Oswego.

Gemma Cooper-Novack's theatrical works have been performed in Boston, Chicago, and NY. Her book of poems is *We Might as Well Be Underwater*.

Christopher Cresswell is a composer, songwriter, educator, guitarist, and WCNY-FM radio host, who currently teaches music composition at Onondaga Community College.

Nancy Avery Dafoe won the William Faulkner/Wisdom Creative Writing Competition in poetry and the New Century Writers first place in short story.

Megan Davidson has written several published historical novels, most recently *The Thundering*.

Chris DelGuercio's novella is *Eden Succeeding*. His short fiction has appeared in many journals.

Mike Downs is the author of over 30 books for children. His books span science, technology, engineering, poetry, fantasy, and memoirs.

Len Fonte's many plays include SALT Award winner *Werewolf*. He has taught playwriting at Syracuse University and is a theater critic for the Syracuse Post-Standard.

Mary Jumbelic is the former chief medical examiner of Onondaga County. Her memoirs have been finalists in an AARP/Huffington Post Memoir Writing Contest and the Tucson Literary Festival.

Johanna Keller founded SU's Goldring Arts Journalism graduate program. A four-time Pulitzer Prize judge, she began teaching writing at the YMCA National Writer's Voice in New York City.

Stephen Kuusisto is the best-selling author of the memoirs *Planet of the Blind* and *Have Dog, Will Travel*. His most recent book of poems is *Old Horse, What Is to Be Done?*

Linda Lowen reviews books for *Publisher's Weekly*, and local and regional theater for Syracuse.com/*The Post Standard*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Writer Magazine*.

Charles Martin's most recent book of poems is *Future Perfect*. In 2005, he received an Award for Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His newest book is a translation of *Medea*.

Tim McCoy holds an MFA from Syracuse University and has had pieces published in *Interim*, *Ekphrasis*, *Stone Canoe*, and other places. He lives and teaches in the Syracuse area.

Phil Memmer founded the DWC in 2000. His most recent books of poems are *Pantheon* and *The Storehouses of the Snow*.

Derek Pollard is editor of *Till One Day the Sun Shall Shine More Brightly: The Poetry and Prose of Donald Revell*. His new book of poems is *On the Verge of Something Bright and Good*.

Georgia A. Popoff's most recent collection of poetry, *Psychometry*, was released in 2019 by Tiger Bark Press. An editor and book coaching consultant, she is also the DWC's workshops coordinator.

Nancy Keefe Rhodes is a writer, editor, and curator whose work covers film and photo. She also teaches in the Transmedia film program at Syracuse University.

Carolyn Wright is the author of nine previous books and chapbooks of poetry, four volumes of poetry in translation from Spanish and Bengali, and a book of essays. Wright has served as Visiting Poet and professor of Creative Writing at colleges and universities throughout the U.S. Since 2005, she has taught for the Richard Hugo House in her native Seattle.

FALL 2021 ONLINE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, September 29

Late registrations, where space is available, are subject to a \$15 late registration fee.

Courses (please mark with an "X")	Member Level: YMCA / DWC / Non-Member		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rhythmic Science	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Landscape of Contemporary Poetry	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Shaping the Satisfying Final Draft	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> North, South, East, West	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Poetry Workshop	Free*	\$139	\$185
<input type="checkbox"/> Creative Nonfiction for Scientists	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing for Social Justice	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> After Inspiration: Long Form Revision	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Fall Flow (Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30)	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Fall Flow (Thursdays, 1:00-3:00)	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Text+Photo/Photo+Text	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writers Life: Phase 1	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction Boot Camp Plus	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a Play with Snap, Crackle, and Pop!	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> The Sentence	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> The Sentence (AUDIT ONLY)	Free*	\$60	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Pattern, Not Formula: Writing Your Book in 15 Beats	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Refining Voice	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Can We Talk About Why Reading is (Still) Fundamental?	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Write Your Kids' Book Manuscript Today!	Free*	\$86	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Autumn Songwriting Workshop	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Documenting Our Lives	Free*	\$112	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Books that Excite and Delight	Free*	\$30	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing, and Changing, Our Lives: Master Class	Free*	\$50	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing, and Changing, Our Lives: Master Class (AUDIT ONLY)	Free*	\$36	\$48
<input type="checkbox"/> Fall Reading Series Book Club (Includes 9 books! Register by 9/20)	\$135	\$135	\$135
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual DWC Membership (1 year)	\$45	\$45	\$45

* YMCA of CNY members are entitled to take one free course per season per membership (a family membership counts as one membership). Additional fees (Book Club, late fees) still apply. All other YMCA members, from anywhere in the country, are eligible for the "DWC Member Rate" discount. Call (315) 474-6851 x380 with questions.

TOTAL FEES: _____ Name: _____

Address (street, city, zip code): _____

Day Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

YMCA of Central New York Member? YES / NO (If yes, branch: _____) DWC Member? YES / NO

YMCA Member from another YMCA? YES / NO (If yes, name of YMCA: _____)

ALL STUDENTS: please see page 4 for instructions about how to register for courses.