



**Online Creative Writing Courses**  
spark your imagination & fuel your writing

## Inferno

### Introduction to Novel Writing

10 credit points at SCQF Level 7

Thank you for your interest in **Blaze** – an innovative online creative writing programme from the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Strathclyde. The Centre has been offering a wide choice of classroom-based writing classes to adults for many years and Blaze allows us to take our teaching expertise to a much wider audience. This factsheet aims to answer questions you may have and to provide you with information on what the course includes and its expected outcomes.

#### COURSE CONTENT

Inferno is for intermediate and advanced writers who are starting out or are already engaged in longer fiction or creative non-fiction projects and who want to engage in feedback in a supportive and motivating online workshop environment with a tutor and other writers. It will ground you in the craft and discipline of writing a book-length work, and give you access to inspiring and informative resources about writing and the writing process.

At set points throughout the course, you will post your work, receive comments on it, and read and comment on other people's work. You will be split into groups for this so that the amount of feedback required is never overwhelming. All writing posted during the course must be new writing or work in progress. During the 10 weeks you will post an outline of your goals, a short synopsis or outline of your project and three main assignments of 1500–3000 words each.

There will also be online forums for class discussion and two messenger-style chats for 'real time' contact with the tutor and other students. Both will give you a chance to get to know the other writers and to participate in informal but informative discussions on writing. The course is an ideal progression for students who have taken *Feeding the Flame* but also can be taken independently by anyone who wants to work on or develop a longer writing project.

#### ACCREDITATION

Each Blaze course carries academic credit awarded by the University of Strathclyde. This credit is expressed in terms of university credit points that are offered at Level 7 of the Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Level 7 is equal to first year undergraduate teaching. The SCQF model is designed to make it easier for students to understand the level at which they are studying and to compare courses between learning providers. **Please note that accreditation is optional and if you wish to opt out of having your work formally assessed, you can do so.** If you wish to find out more about our accredited programme, please visit

[www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/studentssupport/openstudiescertificate/](http://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/studentssupport/openstudiescertificate/)

*Inferno* carries 10 credit points and is an online version of class OS283 *Introduction to Novel Writing*, which can also be taken as a classroom-based course within the Centre.

#### ASSESSMENT

The optional assessment for this class is as follows:

- Assessment A** a 300-400 word synopsis or outline of your planned work or work in progress (20%)
- Assessment B** a 1500 word piece of writing (20%)
- Assessments C & D** 2 x 1500-3000 word pieces of writing (30% each)

The setting of short, mid-term and long-term goals will also be an informal part of the assessment as realistic goal setting is crucial to successful novel writing.

Each of your submissions should demonstrate an understanding and use of the exercises and guides employed throughout the course. You will receive a 'Satisfactory' or 'Unsatisfactory' mark against each piece of work accompanied by constructive written feedback from the course tutor.

### IT SKILLS

A level of comfort on computers is encouraged. You should be familiar with navigating websites, and using email and attachments. A sense of adventure and a willingness to learn will always make up for experience you have not yet attained. The course is run on the virtual learning environment (VLE) called Myplace (Moodle). Full instructions for using Myplace are given and the tutor will be able to help you if you have any questions.

### TIME

You should plan to set aside time in the first week to familiarise yourself with the site and its resources. Throughout the course you can participate in informal discussions, but there will be periods of intensity, for example, the week following each posted assignment. The structure of the course allows you to maximize your writing time and to create focused periods of feedback and response. **You should be writing 4-6 hours (if not more) per week in addition to time spent commenting on others' work and participating in discussions.** We have found that online courses do not take less time; they just allow you to be more flexible with what you do and when you do it. Please plan for this.

### IT'S ALL ABOUT WRITING

The course is about writing and writing well. It can be an intense and challenging experience, but we hope that you find it all the more satisfying because of this.

### ENROLMENT

Enrolment (including payment) may be made through our online booking system MyCLL which can be accessed at <http://mycll.strath.ac.uk>. All further correspondence will be conducted via email. Please note that places on the courses are limited to 12 students and it is helpful if you can enrol at least one week in advance of the start date (subject to availability) to allow time for usernames and passwords to be issued.

### GETTING STARTED

*Inferno* is offered twice a year in in October and April. Immediately prior to the course start date, you will be sent a welcome note via email followed by a separate email detailing your username, password and how to get started.

### CONTACT

If you have any further questions or require more information, please contact 0141 548 2116 or email [learn-cll@strath.ac.uk](mailto:learn-cll@strath.ac.uk)