



Online Creative Writing Courses
spark your imagination & fuel your writing

Kindling **Creative Writing for Beginners** 10 credits

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 class includes and its expected outcomes.

CLASS CONTENT

Kindling is for people who want to ground themselves in the basics of creative writing in a supportive and motivating environment. It will start you writing and help you keep going. You will be encouraged to explore your creativity, and will introduce you to the components of the craft of writing through short weekly exercises and two longer main assignments.

During the class, you can upload/post **a maximum of 4000 words** for feedback from the tutor and other students. Students will be organised into groups for this so that the amount of feedback required is never overwhelming. **This writing should all be new writing done during the class.**

There will also be online forums for class discussion and two informal Zoom-based chats for 'real time' contact with the tutor and other students. The format allows everyone to get to know each other and have the opportunity to raise questions about the writing process.

The class is mainly geared towards those who are interested in writing fiction, though would also be relevant to those who are interested in writing non-fiction.

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 class is delivered 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.

ACCREDITATION

Each Blaze class carries academic credit awarded by the University of Strathclyde. This credit is offered at Level 7 of the Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF) that 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 classes 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 <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/studentsupport/openstudiescertificate/>

Kindling carries 10 credits and is an online version of class OS616 *Creative Writing for Beginners*, which can also be taken as a classroom-based class within the Centre.

ASSESSMENT

The optional assessment are conducted via submission of the main assignments and a short reflective logbook, as follows:

Assessment A	a written assignment of approx. up to 800 words	(35%)
Assessment B	a written assignment of approx. up to 1200 words	(65%)
Assessment C	the submission of a reflective logbook outlining experiences/observations	(0% - compulsory)

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

TIME

You should plan to set aside time in the first week to familiarise yourself with the class site and its resources. You should also **plan to spend at least 2 hours online each week** exploring, posting or commenting on people's work. **Your writing time will be in addition to this.** We have found that online classes do not take less time; they just allow you to be more flexible with what you do and when you do it.

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 class may be limited 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

Kindling is normally offered three times per year in October, January and April. Immediately prior to the class start date, you will be sent two separate emails one detailing your username and the other your password to get you started.

CONTACT

If you have any further questions or require more information, please contact CLL Support on 0141 548 2116 or email cll-online@strath.ac.uk