Stories. Everywhere.

Spring Classes 2022
Everyone has a story.
WE WANT YOURS.

Gotham Writers Workshop is a creative home in New York City and Online where writers develop their craft and come together in the spirit of discovery and fellowship. We've been teaching creative writing to students since 1993.

We believe that everyone has a story to tell. Indeed, many stories. Keep your eyes and mind open and you will find them everywhere. And we can help you tell your stories better.

Whether you’re a new writer looking to explore, or an experienced writer looking to strengthen your skills, our classes will help you reach your goals—through clear instruction on elements of craft, critique in a safe environment, and a structured process that keeps your work on track. We also teach Business Writing, with the same verve and expertise we bring to our creative writing courses.

We strive to give each student the best possible learning experience. Class size is strictly limited so you never get lost in a crowd. And our instructors are consistently excellent—working writers who are as skilled at teaching as they are at writing.

We are invested in helping students find the writing class that is most appropriate for their particular needs. Explore our website, and feel free to discuss options via email or phone.

Thousands of people have been enriched by the Gotham experience. It’s why we’ve been around for over twenty-five years.

COVID-19 NOTE:

We are offering a small selection of in-person classes in NYC, available to those who can show proof of a COVID vaccination. We also offer many classes Online and through Zoom videoconference. Check our website for the most current information.

CONTACT@GOTHAMWRITERS.COM

212-974-8377
NYC classes. in person.  

Online classes.  

Zoom classes.  

NYC classes, in person.  

Online classes.  

Zoom classes.  

Spring classes begin throughout March, April, and May. Registration fee for all classes: $25 paid once per term.

10-Week Workshops  
These classes use a combination of lectures, exercises, and workshopping (critiquing of student projects). In NYC and Zoom, they meet for three hours per week; online, each session begins at the same time each week, and unfolds gradually all week long. Available in Level I, II, III.

$445 — NYC  
$419 — Online, Zoom

6-Week Classes  
These classes let students explore a variety of forms and concepts in a low-pressure manner, through a combination of lectures and exercises. In NYC and Zoom, they meet for three hours per week (two hours for Business Writing) online, each session begins at the same time each week, and unfolds gradually all week long. (Timing and price is different for Business Writing.) All Level I.

$345 — NYC  
$319 — Online, Zoom

Selling Seminars  
These courses emphasize the business side of writing. The online version takes place over four weeks. The Zoom version takes place in two three-hour sessions.

$175

Intensives  
These are fast and fun crash courses. The NYC version takes place in one seven-hour day. The Zoom version takes place in two three-hour sessions. The online version takes place over three weeks.

$165
Courses

Fiction
Whether delving inside the truth of our everyday lives or letting us escape into an entertaining page-turner, fiction takes us through the “looking glass” into a world that’s a curious mixture of real and made-up.

Nonfiction
Whether it’s an experience found in your kitchen or halfway around the world, whether it’s an idea you can’t forget or a conversation with a fascinating person, sometimes the most intriguing stories are true.

Scriptwriting
We all like to be entertained, whether it’s watching a performance live on stage or flickering on a screen. Here’s where you learn to write the material that holds those audiences in thrall.

Comedy, Poetry & Song
Send words soaring in the lyricism of poetry or song. Or get people high on laughter through stand-up comedy or humorous prose.

Essentials
Creative Writing 101 is an ideal starting point for writers, to test the waters or wash off the rust. The other courses here focus on crucial aspects of the writing craft, useful for all types of writing.

Professional Development
These courses sharpen your skills in the workplace, or help you build a platform as a writer, or guide you through the tricky task of publishing your work. We also offer Corporate Classes.

Teen Classes
Pressure-free, creativity-stretching, not-like-school courses for writers ages 13-17. Useful for expanding your talent or gaining skills bound to help with essays and schoolwork.

One-on-One
It’s wonderful to learn in a group setting, but sometimes one-on-one is the right match. You may want a private class, or “doctoring” on a specific project, or a professional mentor to guide you, or one of our specialty arrangements.

Fiction
FICTION/NOVEL
CHILDREN’S BOOKS
SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY
MYSTERY
ROMANCE
COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS
READING FICTION

Nonfiction
CREATIVE NONFICTION 101
MEMOIR
ESSAY & OPINION
PERSONAL ESSAY
ARTICLE
TRAVEL WRITING
FOOD WRITING

Scriptwriting
WRITING SCRIPTS 101
SCREENWRITING
TV WRITING
PLAYWRITING
DOCUMENTARY FILM
SCRIPTS IN FOCUS
VIDEO GAME WRITING
WEB SERIES

Comedy, Poetry & Song
POETRY
SONGWRITING
HUMOR WRITING
STAND-UP COMEDY

Essentials
CREATIVE WRITING 101
PLOT
CHARACTER
DIALOGUE
GRAMMAR
THE WRITER’S MIND
THE EDITOR’S EYE
INVERSE; POETIC TECHNIQUES
FOR NON-POETS
SOCIAL MEDIA
PEN ON FIRE
JUST WRITE

Professional Development
BUSINESS WRITING
BLOG BASICS
BLOG WRITING
HOW TO GET PUBLISHED
NONFICTION BOOK PROPOSAL
HIT SEND; PUBLISHING SHORT NONFICTION

Teen Classes
UNBOUND: CREATIVE WRITING
TRUE STORY: CREATIVE NONFICTION
ACTION: TEEN SCRIPTWRITING

One-on-One
DOCTORING—BOOK/STORY/SCRIPT
MENTORSHIPS
PRIVATE SESSIONS AND CLASSES
PRIVATE GRAMMAR SESSIONS
PRIVATE BUSINESS WRITING SESSION/CLASS
QUERY LETTER COACHING
COLLEGE ESSAY COACHING
HEA APPLICATION ASSISTANCE
BLOG LAUNCH
BLOG BOOST
PODCAST LAUNCH
PROOFREADING
QUERY LETTER COACHING
AGENT/EDITOR COACHING

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The most challenging part of writing is often just getting started—daring yourself into the wide-openness of the blank page. We invite you to do just that.

To help out, we present several “story starters” and some tantalizing blank space to write upon.
Begin a story inspired by this photograph.

Photo by Warren Wong

As you’ll see in the article on the following page, our hobbies can be a help or a hindrance to writing stories. Try making some hay out of your hobby, by writing (or starting) a story in which you or a character is engaging in a favorite hobby of yours. Make the hobby a central element. If it’s a true story, stick to the truth. If it’s fictional, make up some good stuff to enhance the tale.

Use this writing prompt as inspiration: Off kilter

Now write a story that springs from this prompt in some way. It can be true or made up. Prose, script, poem, whatever you like. The trick is not to think about it, but just dive in and start writing. Let the prompt lead you wherever it wants to. Often this “no thinking” approach to writing is the best way to tap your creativity. (This will give you a taste of what we do every Friday at our Write-Ins.)
You must be brutally honest with yourself about what’s important and what’s not. You have to be strict about what is worth your time. For each activity or distraction you pursue, ask yourself: Does this complement my creativity or does it drain it? Over time, you should be asking yourself about what’s important and what isn’t. For each new activity you spend it is completely up to you. If you want to allow yourself to break from the work that writing often requires, you could pursue a hobby. If it doesn’t complicate your creativity, why not indulge yourself from time to time and try a new activity or distraction you pursue? Think about the hobbies that you hold onto and really examine them, because inspiration strikes different writers in different ways. Maybe you usually see that you’re only able to be creative when you’re talking to someone, or when you’re kneading dough. These are your hobbies, and you’re allowed to cherish them. They serve the dual purpose of providing a break from writing while still keeping you in a creative mindset where you generate ideas and inspiration.

In that sense, no time is lost. Any hours you spend engaging in a hobby that opens up your creativity is time well spent because when you come back to your writing, your mind has been refueled. Perhaps, you’ll already have a plan in place: a book deduced while the second batch of bagels were rising.

Let’s be honest. Not every hobby works like that. Some hobbies are story-driven. I find they are story-driven. That writing is going nowhere if you’re not also creating a story. So occasionally these hobbies, these distractions that allow you to step away from your writing, suddenly take on a negative tilt, simply because they’re stealing away time that could be spent writing. It’s like consuming empty calories, and I don’t know about you, but I’m trying to lose some weight around the midsection. These distractions occupy your mind, which may be a good thing if you’re stressed and need to step away from the page again—that writing is going nowhere if you’re not showing it where to go. But what if that distraction could also complement your creativity? Take it from me. I’ve spent the last few years trying to learn the banjo, the piano, French, Polish, Welsh, karate, mountain climbing, and all manner of things that might be in the mind of that character. I’m trying to learn the banjo, the piano, French, Polish, Welsh, karate, mountain climbing, and all manner of things that might be in the mind of that character. Unfortunately, there are only 24 hours in the day. Surprisingly, the only hobby that survived— and continues to survive—is video games. And there’s a reason why. Video games, while distracting and story-driven, are story-driven. I find they complement my creativity, giving me ideas, inspiration, and fuel for writing without me actively seeking it out. And so, I find myself writing after just a couple of hours, the creative juices are flowing again.

Casandra Lopez
Facility Profile

Writing for most of us, is a hobby. When someone asks what we do, we answer, “I work in the service industry.” I’m an electrician, or any number of positions that don’t involve a lot of creative writing—or creativity in general. Given the need to make money, there isn’t a lot of time to commit to our craft; thus, managing time becomes critical to our success as writers.

Let’s explore some useful distractions.

There are plenty of hobbies that writers can pick up to accomplish this task of distracting themselves—recreational sports, video games, cooking, pottery, lion taming—if it interests you, and you enjoy doing it, why not indulge yourself from time to time. This is your life, after all, how much are you going to be where you are? If you want to allow yourself to break from the work that writing requires, you’re allowed to be creative. So why not complement your creativity rather than draining it, wouldn’t that be a good investment of your spare time?

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Gotham helped me prepare for my future career as a women’s fiction writer.
— Ashley Farley, writer

It was an absolute thrill and quite inspirational.
— Elise Brancheau, opera singer

I went from feeling completely out of my league to having a sense of confidence.
— Steven Grande, university administrator

The best teaching technique I have encountered since I came to America
— Ekaterina Svetova, graphic designer

It was an absolute thrill and quite inspirational.
— Elise Brancheau, opera singer
We offer free Write-Ins most every Friday on Zoom, at 2 and 6:30 pm Eastern Time.

Here’s what happens. The teacher gives an interesting writing prompt. Everyone writes for a while. Then, those who want to read aloud their work. We take a break and socialize (bring refreshments). Then you go through the process one more time. It’s writer’s heaven.

You must sign up in advance. Spaces open every Thursday afternoon for the following day’s Write-In.

GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/WRITEIN

We offer a free talk show on Zoom, most every Wednesday at 5 pm Eastern Time. It’s called Inside Writing. Every episode, the host and guests (writers, agents, editors) discuss the inside scoop on publishing and writing. (Also available on YouTube and most podcast platforms.)

You must sign up in advance.

GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/INSIDE

Did you know Gotham offers various scholarships to BIPOC writers?

GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/BIPOC
For competition rules and online entry form, visit: GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/TEENWORDSTORY
Stories are, truly, everywhere—every place you look, everyone you meet, everything you experience. Every day is filled with hundreds of potential stories awaiting your imagination and craft.

Each month we invite you to post a story on Twitter at #GWstorieseverywhere. Your stories (which can be true or made up) will be inspired by what you see, know, or do, and they should relate in some way to these monthly themes:

**MARCH**  hidden treasure  
**APRIL**  outsider  
**MAY**  perfection

At the end of each month, we will pick our favorite and reward that person with a free Gotham writing class.

Your story must be no longer than 25 words, with a max of 280 characters, including spaces and the hashtag #GWstorieseverywhere.

Everyone has a story. Especially you.

GOTHAMWRITERS.COM  
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