



WRITING TO CONVINCe

Writer's Studio, Autumn 2022

COURSE INFORMATION		
COURSE TITLE: Writing to Convince	CODE & SECTION: WRIT52801 22A-1	LENGTH OF COURSE: 8 weeks
COURSE SCHEDULE: Tuesdays 1:30-4:00pm CST Sept. 27, 2022 - Nov. 15, 2022	ONLINE https://courses.uchicago.edu	INSTRUCTOR: Susan Hubbard Susan.hubbard3@gmail.com
GRAHAM SCHOOL INFORMATION		
PHONE: 773.702.1722		WEBSITE: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Writers write because they have something to say, to convince others of their view of the human condition. Together we'll marshal all the tools in the writer's toolbox to unleash compelling arguments about what it means to be human in the world today.

Writing is a solitary occupation. What compels a person to sit alone by themselves for hours struggling to put words on a page when they could be out enjoying the world? Clearly something is driving them. There's a message nagging at them, a message they feel compelled to get out into the world.

In this workshop we'll tackle the big picture questions that keep writers glued to their occupation. We'll take apart the anatomy of our stories and interrogate every part of them to squeeze from them their maximum effect. And we'll build in heart and soul, irony and humor to bind our audiences close, building a case, word by word, scene by scene, and plot point by plot point to fundamentally alter our audience's understanding of our place in the world and what it means to be alive today.

Participants will complete in-class and at-home exercises, workshop their work in class, and read, support and critique each other's work. Writers should plan on regularly submitting their work for peer and instructor review.

STUDY TEXTS*

1. *All That Jazz*, * 1979 film written by Robert Alan Arthur and Bob Fosse; directed by Bob Fosse; starring Roy Scheider, Jessica Lange, Ann Reinking, Leland Palmer, and Ben Vereen; winner four Oscars; nominated for four additional Oscars including best screenplay; winner Palme d'Or, Cannes Film Festival, 1980; 124 minutes running time. Movie is occasionally available streaming for free at https://tubitv.com/movies/674331?utm_source=justwatch-feed&tracking=justwatch-feed Otherwise it can be rented as a DVD through Netflix or purchased as a DVD on Amazon.
2. *Elsewhere, California*, * 2012 novel by Dana Johnson, paperback edition, ISBN-13: 978-1582437842, Counterpoint Press, 276 pages.

***Please note that study texts are SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please contact the instructor after registering to confirm the final study texts for the course.**

ASSIGNMENTS TO COMPLETE IN ADVANCE

1. **Prior to the first class** watch the study film. Email the instructor for a link to the course screenplay.
2. **Prior to the first class** start reading the study novel.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE*

WEEK	TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1	<p>Prior to class watch the study movie and be prepared to discuss it on the first day. Email the instructor after you have registered to receive a link to the screenplay and to confirm that the study texts have not changed.</p> <p>TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study texts and key course concepts• What's on your mind? What lies heavy on your heart and soul?• Personal writing, from the gut
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ferocity and vulnerability• The character who carries the message

Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preoccupying questions, problems without solutions • Character vs. society, nature, others and themselves
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making your story matter • Planting a long fuse; driving your meaning home
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conveying the visceral present • Going deeper in the moment
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amplifying story through subplots • Building symbolic value
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laying an emotional roadbed • Forcing impossible change
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The moral climax • Revolutionizing the audience

*This syllabus is a *summary of course objectives and content*, not a contract. All information in this syllabus is subject to change, with sufficient advance notice provided by the instructor.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

The Graham School of Continuing Liberal & Professional Studies abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act (see <http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm>), with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (see <http://www.dol.gov/oasam/regs/statutes/sec504.htm>), and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (see <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>) and will provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities covered by law. If you have a disability for which you may require accommodations, please contact Charnessa Warren, Director of Student Disability Services, at 773.702.6000 or charnessa@uchicago.edu in advance of the first class meeting.