

Techniques of Memoir Writing

How to tell your own stories

Purpose: This workshop will focus on improving participants' writing skills in order to please, as well as challenge, readers. Such readership includes friends, family members and possible publishers. The main purpose is to have fun writing.

Course #	19STM
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Dick Bentley
Co-moderator:	Nancy Denig
Date and Time:	Monday, 1:30-3:30 10 weeks, starting February 25
Location:	Amherst College, Converse Hall, Porter Lounge

Description: Workshop participants will review published memoirs by established authors, to be provided by the Moderator. The group will discuss each memoir for specific writing techniques, storytelling practices and such methods as foreshadowing, narrative perspective, backstory, and character development.

Role of participants: Participants will experiment with short in-class writing assignments. Subject matter may include friendship, love, marriage, parenthood, professional challenges and achievements. Workshop members will produce at least one writing sample, maximum 1800 words each or 15 minutes in length. A second composition is optional.

Resources: No required reading, but short reading assignments will be given out in class.

About the Moderators: Moderator Dick Bentley has taught memoir writing at UMass, published three books of short stories and poetry, and served as a former Board Member of the Modern Poetry Association. Co-moderator Nancy Denig has moderated two LIR seminars on *Poetry Out Loud*, knowing and sharing the power of how the rhythm of words can sing.

Maximum number of participants: 10

Auditors accepted: No