Course: Writers in New York
Course Number: CRWRI-UA.818
Instructor: Irini Spanidou

The focus of this course is the discovery, encouragement and development of the students’ individual voice and style. The aim is not to force a piece of writing into formulaic “perfection” but to facilitate its clarity and momentum, thereby allowing substance to determine form. Whatever works is right: a short story or novel that fulfills its intentions justifies its means.

During the first week of this four-week course, the students will be given prompts for exercises that will help them explore different approaches to any narrative material. In the following three weeks, they will be expected to work on a full length story, or a chapter from a novel—bringing it from first draft to final revision.

Week One

June 3  Exercises: first-person, distant-third, omniscient narrative
June 5  Exercises: setting, mood, character, dialogue

Week Two

June 10  Workshop: first draft of partial submission of story
June 12  Workshop: first draft of partial submission of story

Week Three

June 17  Workshop: first draft of part completing the story submitted the previous week
June 19  Workshop: first draft of part completing the story submitted the previous week

Week Four

June 24  Workshop: revision of completed story
June 26  Workshop: revision of completed story

Required Reading

Donald Antrim, “Another Manhattan”
Raymond Carver, “Cathedral”
Raymond Carver, “Why Don’t You Dance”
Chekhov, “Lady with the Lapdog”
Chekhov, “Gooseberries”
Mary Gaitskill, “The Secretary”
Denis Johnson, “Emergency”
Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man Is Hard to Find”

**Grades**

Absences without a valid excuse, nonparticipation in class, and a failure to write carefully thought-out and -articulated critiques will automatically result in a lower grade.