The Elements of Nature Writing
Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course provides a foundation in the elements of nature writing. Students will examine historical and contemporary authors while ascertaining their place in the professional writing community. A focus on environmental writing, literary techniques, and styles relevant to the field will prepare students for their own exploration into nature writing. Relevant readings and instruction in all major sub-genres including memoir, personal essay, fiction, poetry, hybrid, and experimental work. Students will discover a new appreciation for the natural world and the effect nature has on one's writing. Students will conclude the course with a well-developed understanding of the techniques of nature writing and skills to enter the professional writing community.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in creative writing pedagogy by guiding students to incorporate sensory detail and observation inspired by the natural world.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Define the characteristics of nature writing.
2. Analyze historical nature writing and techniques.
3. Examine the components of contemporary nature writing.
4. Identify elements of nature writing in prose and poetry.
5. Describe natural environments for nature writing.
6. Construct an author brand.
7. Apply practical skills for publication.
8. Formulate goals for successful nature writing teaching.

Modules

- Module 1: An Understanding of Nature Writing, Quiz 1
- Module 2: The History of Nature Writing, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Contemporary Nature Writing, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Nature Writing in Prose and Poetry, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Natural Environments for Nature Writing, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Author Brand, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Skills for Publication, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Teaching Nature Writing, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.