

Writing from the Inside Out Syllabus

Class Format

Welcome, everyone, to *Writing from the inside out*, a very special writing workshop centered on student engagement. Each month, there will be two 1.5-hour classes. The first of these will focus on a specific craft lesson (see below for more info on those) and the second will center conversation with the whole class as well as with specific critique groups.

In the second class, these critique groups will all be assigned. These groups are meant to be safe spaces, and every month, you will write approximately a chapter's worth of work (5-15 double spaced pages) at a minimum to share with your groups. I ask that you send these samples at least one week ahead of the second class each month to provide your group members ample time to review the materials. Then, with your group members, you will engage in dialogue about the work every second class, discussing any questions you might have, or revision areas pointed out by fellow group members.

Note that you will prepare constructive feedback for fellow group members and **never** negative. Your goal, always and forever, is to use what we discuss in class to pose meaningful questions that the writer must consider. Questions, not direct statements, are the medium for critique. That and praise of course (say all the nice things!).

Class Schedule and Topics

Class One (9/7): Compelling characters and story pitches

Class Two (9/21): Workshop critique group sessions, writing discussion, and Q&A

Class Three (10/5): Plot, fiction, and rounding out characters

Class Four (10/19): Workshop critique group sessions, writing discussion, and Q&A

Class Five (11/2): Voice and point of view

Class Six (11/16): Workshop critique group sessions, writing discussion, and Q&A

Class Seven (12/7): Show don't tell: using description to immerse readers

Class Eight (1/4): Workshop critique group sessions, writing discussion, and Q&A

Class Nine (1/18): Setting, pacing, and dialogue

Class Ten (2/8): Workshop critique group sessions, writing discussion, and Q&A

Class Eleven (2/22): Revision

Class Twelve (3/8): Workshop critique group sessions, writing discussion, and Q&A

Class Thirteen (3/22): Publishing and query letters

Class Fourteen (4/5): Workshop critique group sessions, writing discussion, and Q&A