

Write your memoir

Start writing your memoir and master the tools used by successful memoirists.

This course is for anyone who dreams of writing a memoir, but doesn't know how to go about it. The course offers expert, one-on-one training, line by line, from a professional writer, and provides a foundation in the craft of memoir. Learn how to set up a writing schedule, plan your memoir and start the process of putting your life story into words.

Course details:

Modules: seven modules

Duration: six months

Course fee: R5,495

Start date: at any time, applications all year round

Student completes several writing exercises and a preliminary start of at least 10,000 words with one-on-one instruction from a tutor

Tutor:

Lisa Lazarus has co-written her memoir *The Book of Jacob* (Oshun) with her husband about the first year with their son, Jacob. Julia Denny-Dimitriou, writing for the Natal Witness, regarded this memoir as "the book that affected me most [in 2009]...A courageous and beautifully written book." She also works as a freelance journalist for a variety of publications, including Men's Health, Femina, Psychologies, Shape, Cosmopolitan, Femina, Healthy Pregnancy and the Mail & Guardian.

She has a master's degree in educational psychology. She is currently completing her master's in creative writing at UCT.

Admission requirements:

- Students must be proficient in the English Language
- Email and internet access required
- No previous tertiary qualification required

Curriculum:

Module one - an introduction to memoir

- What is memoir?
- Why do people write memoirs?
- How to overcome some common fears about writing memoir
- What you can expect from this course?
- Exercise: construct a schedule, your expectations for the course, and warm-up writing exercises.

Module two - the basics

- Different types of memoir
- Understanding theme and point of view
- Finding your voice
- Reading memoirs
- Exercise: your memoir proposal, and discuss voice, theme and point of view in a memoir of your choice.

Module three - characterisation

- The narrator versus the protagonist
- Getting to know your protagonist
- The central character - you

- Memory triggers
- Other characters
- Assembling a cast of vivid, believable major and minor characters
- Exercise: using memory triggers and a brief scene in which two of your characters interact.
- Text installment: 700 words

Module four - plot

- Plot versus story
- The key elements of plot
- Classic and alternative plot structures
- Sub-plots
- Exercise: the plot outline of your memoir
- Text instalment: 1,500 words

Module five - setting

- The environment: place, weather, light, sound, textures = atmosphere
- Exercise: the setting of your memoir
- Text instalment: 2,000 words

Module six - putting scenes together

- Scenes, chapters and paragraphs
- Transitions, beginnings and endings
- Exercise: practice writing transitions
- Text instalment: 2,000 words

Module seven - writing style

- Good and bad style tips
- Finding your own style
- Exercise: examine your own writing style
- Text instalment: 2,500 words
- Final text instalment: 10,000 words

Date: 07 September 2017

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 28 September 2017 to 28 September 2016

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 05 October 2017

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 26 October 2017

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 02 November 2017

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 30 November 2017

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 07 December 2017

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 21 December 2017

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 04 January 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 25 January 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

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