



2011 CLASSES
MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

VISUAL ARTS

Intro to Ceramics—Jamie Autrey

Students will learn basic clay skills such as clay management, the use of slip, and firing techniques. Class will work on completing two projects: pinch pots that are polished, decorated with slip, and pit-fired, and a Raku-fired project. Class size: 12.

Working at the Wheel—Jamie Autrey

Students will work on basic ceramics skills such as preparing clay for use at the wheel, learning to center the clay, and making basic forms, including mugs. More experienced students will work on more complicated forms such as bowls, vases and pitchers. Each student will go home with finished, functional work to display and enjoy. Class size: 12

Ceramic Animals—Liz Zacher

Students will learn basic hand-building techniques (pinch, coil and slab construction) to create small animal sculptures. Different surface techniques such as slips, under glaze, glaze and terra sigillata will also be explored. Class size: 12

Ceramics and Image—Liz Zacher

Students will learn basic constructing techniques working with both hard and soft slabs. Objects that are created in this class such as tiles and boxes will then be decorated with various image making techniques using slips and underglazes. Class size: 12

Hand Built Pottery—Liz Zacher

Students will learn basic hand-building techniques (pinch, coil and slab construction) to create functional objects such as bowls, cups and vases. Different surface techniques such as slips, under glaze, glaze and terra sigillata will also be explored. Class size: 12

Playing With Paint—Kirsten McNally

In this class, we will focus on inventing our own tools for painting and creating new and personal ways of putting paint to paper. Get ready to play with materials, create your own "brushes" from whatever you can find, explore lots, and think big. You will be encouraged to invent and experiment with your own painting process, and think about how different materials act. We will discuss "mark-making" and artists who have used

this idea in new and interesting ways and how a stain or accident can turn into something great! Class size: 16

Color and Collage—Megan Lindeman

Do you love color? This class will explore the power of color. We will look at how colors, when combined and put into pattern, function to dazzle your eye and excite your mind. Through an initial series of color studies we will examine how colors react to each other and how light effects, even determines what colors your eyes see. We will look at examples of bold color use in African textiles, 20th century Painting, and American quilts. All the while we will be making our own bold statements using simple collage techniques and the power of color. Class size: 16

Still Life Painting—Megan Lindeman

Learn the basics of painting, composition, and mixing paint while painting nature still lives and Flowers! Familiarize yourself with the painting pallet and paint confidently. In this class we will dive right into mixing paint and painting from life. We will look at art history and learn how past artists have tackled the subject matter of still lives and floral arrangements. We will also learn about and "vanitas " and "Momento Mori" paintings. Students will make a painting a day to gain first hand experience of how paint functions while exploring the poetic duality of life and death inherent in the Nature Still Life. Class size: 16

Figure Drawing—Megan Lindeman

In this class students will learn to draw the human figure, using a variety of charcoals and conte crayons. Students will work from the live figure model to learn proper proportions and scale. Gesture and form will be explored through a series of quick warm up drawings at the beginning of each class. Students will work on longer drawing as the class progresses and as they become familiar with formal elements (such as line quality, value, and weight) of drawing the human figure. Class size: 16

3-D Drawing Basics—Marcia Hartsock

"For my part I see only forms that are lit up and forms that are not. There is only light and shadow." Francisco de Goya, artist. How do you make something look three-dimensional on a flat piece of paper? Whether you are a doodler, an aspiring cartoonist, or a future Rembrandt, this drawing class will focus on the fundamental skill of observational volumetric drawing through a variety of techniques and drawing media. After warming-up with contour and gesture drawing, we will use the magic of light to study negative space, tonal values, core and cast shadow shapes, and discover how to make our drawings 'pop' off the page! Class size:16

Creating a Sitka Field Guide—Marcia Hartsock

"It's simple, really; a pencil, a notebook, and your own powers of observation are all you need." Cathy Johnson, naturalist, author, artist
This class will explore, observe, and collect impressions of the distinguishing textures and details of our Fine Arts Camp environment. Our 'collections' will include not only natural objects, but sounds, smells, and memories to create each student's unique 'field

guide' to our Sitka surroundings. With a variety of media, students will create plant portraits, shell studies, beach and forest compositions enhanced with their personal notes and descriptions. We will work inside and outside of the classroom, so come prepared!

Class size: 16

Creative Watercolor Painting—Marcia Hartsock

"After a thousand watercolors you will find you have fallen in love with paper and paint." Rex Brandt, watercolor painter and teacher. Watercolor painting is a fun and fast way to create imaginative, expressive images. We will use traditional watercolor techniques of graded washes, glazing, wet on wet, wet on dry, and blotting, and then experiment with a variety of fun mixed media and texturing techniques. We'll start by observing our beautiful natural surroundings, and then capture impressions, experiment with color, celebrate surprises, and let our imaginations soar! Each student will create their own 'gallery' of unique paintings. Class size: 16

Black and White Photography—Noah Wilson

Film Photography is still alive! This is an introduction to the basics of 35-millimeter black-and-white photography. Students will learn how to develop film, enlarge prints, and learn how their camera functions. Slide and book presentations along with field trips will further expose us to the medium's exciting possibilities. Participants are encouraged to talk about the images they make and what they find compelling about one another's work. Students should bring a working 35-millimeter (preferably manual) camera to the first class. Class Size 12. *Materials Fee \$40.*

Constructing the World Through Pinholes and Plastic—Noah Wilson

Get ready to build your own unique pinhole camera! We will explore the world of photography with low-tech, cheap, fun cameras from the pinhole camera to the Holga. Each day we make progress: we'll take some pictures, modify our cameras, and refine our eyes and skills in the field and the darkroom. We will be at the mercy of the low tech, which will allow us to focus on the basics of composition, allowing us to hone our artistic vision and be innovative in our approach. Students will work on a self-directed project and exhibit the results at the end of the session. We will look at a variety of artists through slides and books. Class Size: 12. *Material Fee: \$40. A simple plastic camera will be provided along with the tools necessary to make a pinhole camera.*

Advanced Photography: Building Something Out of Nothing—Noah Wilson

This class takes you beyond the basics of black and white photography. We will examine the things we see on a daily basis, things that people around us might simply walk by. We will look at some of the photographs you have taken in the past and see where you would like to go next. This course will enable you to further explore the many ways to make a photograph. You will be encouraged to build the scenes you would like to see happen in the world. We will talk about sequencing and editing photographs while making our own photo book. Each student will leave the class with a portfolio in print and book form. Class Size: 12. *Materials Fee: \$40. Students must bring 5 to 10 examples of their photographic work to the first class session. Also, please bring a 35mm camera.*

DIGITAL ARTS

Animation—Javier Barboza

Explore your imagination! Express yourself through animation by telling a story. Students explore numerous animation techniques, including drawn animation, flipbooks, paper cutout, clay animation, stop-motion and more. Students will complete both group and individual projects and will also gain an understanding of film language, editing tools and sound effects. Films will be screened at the conclusion of the course. Class size: 16

Photoshop—Susan Bein

This class will be a hands-on, project-based exploration of what Photoshop can do. We'll start by making wild masks using a variety of filters, and go on to make posters for upcoming camp performances. Students can use their own digital photos if they have them, or ones provided in class. Skills will include filters, selection tools, using layers, and retouching. We'll post our creations in an online gallery. Class size: 12

Video Art—Lindsey White

This class is designed for students who wish to concentrate on and develop their work with video. Be it single-channel, installation, or as a documentary tool, experimental or narrative, this class will provide a space to stimulate dialogue through projects, studying video artists, and readings and lessons about and around the developments and shifts occurring in contemporary art. The class will address basic aspects of production and post-production, with low and high levels of production, style, and approach considered. Students enrolled in this course are expected to work independently and collaboratively on assignments to define their own projects, and to realize goals that they have established. This studio class will concentrate on providing students with experience in the basic tools and techniques for video as well as in film. Instruction will include creating projects using iMovie, and in making and documenting projects, performances, and installations. Class size: 16

ALASKA NATIVE ARTS

Alutiq and Aleut Art—Patrick Lind

Working in the traditional art forms of Alutiq and Aleut cultures, students will learn design principles and practice basic skills leading up to creating their own wooden masks, ceremonial hunting hats, and harpoons. Learn about culture and the meaning behind the traditional designs as you create your own pieces and grow to understand and appreciate one of Alaska's rich artistic traditions. Class size: 16

DANCE

Intro to Dance—Steven Houser

This class is for anyone who wishes to learn how to move their body. Each class will begin with stretching and strengthening, progressing to a basic ballet barre to give support while we learn the fundamentals of movement, and building to center practice where we will apply what we learned at barre. Focus will be on exploring the mind/body connection through a safe, effective warm up and proper execution of fundamental movements, using ballet as a foundational tool. Ideal for those who are involved in other dance forms, those who are looking to cross-train for other activities, those who would like to add some movement to their day, those who desire a deeper knowledge of how their body moves, as well as those who are simply curious or looking to try something fun as a change of pace - all are welcome. *Clothes suited for movement must be worn for class, no jeans.* Class size: 14

Intermediate/Advanced Ballet – Steven Houser

For the more experienced dancer who wishes to further their ballet technique, this session will build on the student's present technique with a focus on coordination and musicality. Participants should have a working knowledge of pas de bouree, waltz turns, single pirouettes, chaine and soutenu turns, jete, and basic petit allegro jumps. Pointe work will be given for those working at an appropriate level. Proper ballet attire must be worn for class. Prerequisite: Previous ballet experience required. Class size: 14

Dance and Choreography—Steven Houser

Have you always wanted to create a dance, but did not know how? Here is your chance! In this class students will incorporate various techniques to explore, develop, and create a dance-based performance piece. Games, improvisation, and exercises will be used to learn about patterns, spacing, and timing. Open to any students interested in movement. Clothes suited for movement must be worn for class, no jeans. Class size: 30

“Musica Mia” Latin Dance—Angeline Egea & Gastrell Rossignol

Ever imagine yourself on the dance floor, as opposed to standing or sitting and watching others dance? Well let's stop imagining it! “Musica Mia” is the class that allows you to be yourself on the dance floor. Either being goofy, stylish, or jazzy or a combination, you can always be yourself on the dance floor. This class will take you from the basics all the way to more complex moves and combinations. This class will focus primarily on the following dances such as Salsa, Bachata and Merengue. We will also go over lead and follow techniques and partnering etiquette. At the end of the course we will perform a choreographed piece demonstrating that YOU are the dancer that you have always imagined yourself to be. *No partner needed. No sneakers.* Class size: 30

“Mexclada” Contemporary Dance —Angeline Egea & Gastrell Rossignol

“Mexclada” will let you show off on the dance floor. This class will incorporate various dances from Salsa to Hip Hop to Samba and Zouk Caribbean style. The name says it all, you will learn different styles of dance that allow you to show your skills no matter what genre of music is playing. No prior experience required, only a desire to get down and boogie. We will be putting together a choreographed piece that will be performed at the end of the session. *Sneakers and street gears are ok.* Class size: 30

Capoeira—Angeline Egea & Gastrell Rossignol

What do Aeon Flux, Hellboy II, Tekken, Anderson “Spider” Silva have in common? They all had Capoeira training. Capoeira is an Afro Brazilian Martial Art disguised as Dance. It involves culture, music, dancing, acrobatics, coordination, singing and much more. You will be learning the basics movements and the history of one of the most fascinating martial arts that ever existed. *No experience or shoes needed.* Class size: 30

THEATER

Scene Study 101—Jodi Gelbman

You are cast in a show, but what next? In this class you will learn how to analyze a script, develop a character, understand action and objective, and learn techniques that will enable you to be truthful on the stage. Whether you are an experienced actor or new to the theater, this class will help push your craft to the next level! Class size: 16

Shakespeare Decoded—Jodi Gelbman

In only two weeks, we will wrestle with, take on, and tackle one of Shakespeare’s great plays! Together we will learn why Shakespeare’s words are still relevant in today’s world. We will look at the rhythm, the rhymes and the meaning. This class can be a introduction for the novice and a deeper exploration for the experienced. Come along for the ride and be prepared to be surprised. As Shakespeare himself said “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.” Learn, play, and have fun! Class size: 18

Theater Ensemble—Jodi Gelbman

In sports, it’s called a “team” and in the arts we call it an “ensemble.” In this class, the ensemble will create original pieces of theater. Through exercises and improvisation each student will learn how to take risks and follow their instincts. We will devise both verbally and non-verbally. This is not your traditional acting class, but you will learn lessons here that will translate into every aspect of your life. At the end of this class each students will know themselves and their ensemble members on a deeper level. Most importantly we will work together, stretch our imaginations, and have fun! Class size: 18

Introduction to Theatre Improvisation—Beverly Mann

Stretch your imagination, think quickly on your feet and plunge into the unknown. This high energy and fun class will focus on creating scenes using theatre improvisational techniques. It will increase your physical, vocal and emotional range while you make exciting dramatic choices. We will explore the “who” (character), “what” (action) and “where” (environment). Improvisation is a powerful tool for any performer. This beginning theatre improvisation class will boost your confidence and encourage risk-taking by establishing the importance of trust from the very beginning. Be prepared to laugh! Class size: 16

Intermediate/Advanced Improvisation—Theater Staff

Whose line is it anyway? Come find out in this fun, fast paced comedy/improv extravaganza. By playing various improv games we learn how to rely on our instincts and our fellow performers to perform without a script. We will explore the fundamentals of short and long form improv. Expand your skills as a performing artist while having a great time. *Previous improv experience required.* Class size: 14

Mask Making/Mask Theatre: The Power of Transformation—Beverly Mann

Students will have the opportunity to build a silent character mask that covers the entire face or a mask worn on the top of the head. These are nonverbal masks which allow the body to be fully expressive. The mask-making process includes: the plaster positive (a solid armature on which to work), clay- to build the character's features, and layering other materials. Once these materials are dry, the clay is removed and the mask is painted. We will explore and identify how to bring the masks to life through movement and mask theatre techniques. You will be the playwrights to create an original mask theatre piece, which will culminate in a performance at the end of camp. Geared for those students that are interested in the integration of the performing arts and visual arts. All levels welcome. Class Size: 10

Character: The Half Mask—Beverly Mann

Are you interested in expanding your range of character? The half-mask is a lively and fun form of mask theatre that capitalizes on the mask's power to transform the actor physically and vocally, creating exciting characters in interesting new worlds. With my existing half-masks, students will explore the physical and vocal aspect of a character, but with the added element of the mask. You will experience a sense of freedom, laughter, playfulness and expression that will surprise and invigorate you. Through your improvisations, you will create scenes and monologues to be performed at the end of the session. *Previous theatre experience required.* Class size: 14

Partner Acrobatics—WT McRae and Amanda Crockett

Can you do a handstand, cartwheel, or stand on someone's shoulders? Come learn how to. This class will take students of all levels and see how far we can get. We will start with basic spatial exploration and body awareness and move through to group acrobatic work. Students will learn the basics of tumbling, basing a trick, flying a trick, spotting a trick, counter-balancing, and other acrobatic mechanics. This class will be team taught and each section will be leveled according to experience. Come dressed to move. Class size: 30

Clowning—Amanda Crockett

Think you're funny? It is time to get serious about our comedy. Explore the world of physical theatre, while learning the building blocks of clowning. We will study how the "gag" works, and how to write comic material. We will cover comic styles from Commedia dell Arte to Slapstick. Plan on walking away with your own clown character, and your own original sketches you develop with your friends. Pre Requisite: a sense of humor. Class size: 14

Mime and Movement—Amanda Crockett

So you want to be a movement ninja? Come learn how to tell stories, and create with out using any words. We will explore classic mime illusions, and creating physical characters using improvisation. We will learn how to work as an ensemble, and use our ideas to create a short piece to show at the end of camp. Anything is possible in this class. We are only limited by our imagination. This class is a great mix of acting, mime, and movement: and perfect for kids like me, who are always being told to sit still. Class size: 14

Juggling—WT McRae

Juggling is a skill involving moving objects for entertainment or sport. You've seen people do it, you've probably tried with some oranges. Now learn the skills to do it yourself. This course will start from basic skills and progress to advanced tricks. Students will be exposed to a range of juggling props including: scarves, balls, rings, poi, diablo, clubs and more. This class is for the beginner or the advanced and everyone in between. Class size: 15

Musical Theater Workshop - Andrew Hames and WT McRae

Whether you are a fan of the classic musicals of Rogers and Hammerstein, or you prefer a modern musical like Rent. This class will be a chance to explore musical theatre. The focus will be story-telling through scene and song. This course will explore writing, parody, singing, acting and dance. Some experience preferred. Class size: 24

Live Event Production—J. Bradley

Be part of the behind-the-scenes magic! This class will give you hands-on experience with state of the art equipment for producing live events. Students will work with video, audio and theatrical lighting equipment to produce Sitka Fine Arts Camp shows for our nightly, live audience and recordings. Develop the skills to record and mix audio, lighting and video. In addition to daily class sessions we will also work as a team during the evening performances. You'll have fun and learn skills you can use for a lifetime in fine arts and stage performance. Class size: 12

MUSIC

The Sonic Boom—Ed Littlefield

Join our master of rhythm in an exciting exploration of rhythm, funk, fun and groove. Discover a world where ordinary objects become musical instruments. Students will build a giant rhythm machine together using bodies, trash cans, water jugs, and any other sonic tools. This class is for everyone, musicians and non-musicians alike. Class size: 25

Electronic Music and Composition—Andrew Krahn

Have you ever wondered how to make music using a computer? Well look no further. In this class we will explore different approaches to electronic composition through the use of music software. What type of music we will create is completely up to you. The goal is to provide you with the tools you need to take any idea and turn it into a reality, or an

mp3. Knowledge of the piano will be helpful though no previous music experience is required. Class size: 12

Rock Band - Hank Moore

Learn the basics of what you need to know to play rock and roll. Subjects include: playing basic rock instruments, transcribing/learning cover tunes, rock & roll history, harmonies, basic theory, promotion, recording. The goal is to perform by the end of Camp. *Requirement: You must sing or play a rock instrument (guitar, bass, drums, or keyboard).* Class size: 15

Intermediate Rock Band—Hank Moore

Take your inner rock star to the next level! We'll work on your rock instrument basics, explore some great tunes, and let loose for an end-of-camp performance. Intermediate Rock Band is for those with prior experience in playing a rock band instrument or for those who have taken Rock Band at SFAC. *Audition requirements: Play a major scale and a few bars of a rock or funk tune.* Class size: 15

Guitar Knucklebusters – Hank Moore

Your dreams have come true—this is a class for the guitar lover, by a guitar lover. Start each morning working on your guitar technique—plucking, strumming, chords, and learning all those great melodies you have running through your head. Prerequisite: some guitar experience, a willingness to work hard, and the ability to count. Class size: 12

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Concert Band—Bob Athayde

Join us for the ultimate band experience. You'll play great band music, learn to play in a large ensemble—or polish your ensemble skills if you already have band experience—and prepare for an end-of-camp concert performance. All band students welcome. *Seating audition: please see instrument-specific examples on SFAC website.*

Chamber Orchestra—Jane Linde Capistran

Start your day with passion playing great music in Chamber Orchestra! We will perform musical styles from Jazz to the Baroque, explore unique and advanced string techniques and develop the skills necessary to become great musicians. This class is a requirement for string students wishing to take Private Lessons and Small Ensembles. *Note: Chamber Orchestra is a prerequisite for all other string classes. Audition requirements: Please have prepared a piece representative of your ability.*

Lessons and Chamber Music: Cello and Bass—Jane Linde Capistran

Lower strings rock! This will be a class in three parts: as a group, we will cover some of the “essentials” of string playing—tone production, advanced bow techniques, and as individuals, we'll incorporate some one-on-one instruction focusing on fingerboard geography and vibrato, and as an ensemble you may play some amazing chamber music with your fellow classmates. *Prerequisite: Chamber Orchestra.* Class size: 10

Lessons and Chamber Music: Violin and Viola—Jane Linde Capistran

Got Vibrato? Stuck in first position? This will be a class in three parts: as a group, we will cover some of the “essentials” of string playing—tone production, advanced bow techniques, and as individuals, we’ll incorporate some one-on-one instruction focusing on higher positions, shifting and vibrato!, and as an ensemble you may play some of the most memorable chamber music with your fellow classmates. *Prerequisite: Chamber Orchestra.* Class size: 10

Lessons and Chamber Music: Clarinet Masterclass—Hannah Edlen

The focus of this class will be to improve clarinet technique. We will also have fun playing arrangements of cool tunes and improvising. As we study the basic physics of the clarinet, sight reading and music-making will become much easier. As an added bonus, this class will cover a few “extended clarinet techniques”: also known as making really strange sounds on the clarinet. Many doors will open for you as a clarinetist and musician! Class size: 10

Lessons and Chamber Music: Trumpet Masterclass—Kyle Athayde

Improve your trumpet chops in a small masterclass environment designed for motivated players. This class will focus on issues and techniques that are important to trumpet players. Each class we will address a specific topic including daily routine for trumpet, flexibility exercises, pedal tone exercise, and practice habits. Class size: 10

Small Ensembles—Music Faculty

Some of the world’s most beautiful and interesting music was written for duos, trios, quartets, and quintets. Try out a variety of instrument combinations—play in a flute ensemble or a brass ensemble--you might even play right alongside our music faculty! We’ll all prepare for an end of camp recital. *Open to all musicians.*

Piano Lessons—Andrea Burck

For pianists of all ages and stages! Bring something to play the first day representative of your ability. You are welcome to bring any music you may have at home that you would like to learn to play, or would like some coaching on. You will also be assigned new music. Open to anyone with previous piano experience. Class size: 10

VOCAL MUSIC

Choir—Andrew Hames

This choir will be the Sitka Fine Arts Camp’s premier vocal ensemble! Regardless of prior experience, Camp Choir is open to any student wishing to sing with a group! We will explore a wide variety of choral styles, including classical literature, multicultural music, and modern-day spirituals (and everything else in between!). Using vocal exercises and technique, we will find how your individual voice fits into the overall “choral sound”. In addition to intense rehearsals, we will take some time to listen to and

discuss varying choral styles. Come prepared to work hard and make beautiful music together! Class size: 30

Musical Theater Workshop—Andrew Hames & WT McRae

Whether you are a fan of the classic musicals of Rogers and Hammerstein, or you prefer a modern musical like *Rent*. This class will be a chance to explore musical theatre. The focus will be story-telling through scene and song. This course will explore writing, parody, singing, acting and dance. Some experience preferred. Class size: 24

Vocal Solo (Classical, Jazz, or Pop)—Andrew Hames

This class is for anyone who loves to sing and wants the opportunity to improve, build confidence and have more fun using the original musical instrument--the voice! The first part of camp will be spent working on good vocal technique as a group; eventually students will branch off on their own and have the opportunity to select a solo from a wide range of styles. After developing your solo with an accompanist, you will have the opportunity to perform it for your fellow campers! *Note: If you already have an idea of a solo you would like to sing, please bring the music with you to camp!* Class size: 12.

JAZZ STUDIES

Jazz Band—Jazz Faculty

Students will be taught the skills necessary to play in a jazz band and to play the appropriate musical style. Students will also learn how to improvise. *For traditional jazz band instruments: trumpet, trombone, saxophone, piano, bass, drums, and guitar. Audition required. Jazz Band students are required to also be in Concert Band.*

Jazz Theory, Melody, and Improvisation—Mike Sullivan

Do you have questions about jazz theory and jazz history? How about composition and improvisation? Learn to compose melodies and write them down for others to play, and to compose on the spur of the moment to play your ideas on your instrument. This is the basis of the art of jazz. This class will cover the basics of melody, harmony, and rhythm. Put your ideas down on paper and write down what you hear in your head. *Prerequisite: a love of jazz and a comfortable knowledge of major scales.* Class size: 15

Jazz Combos—Jazz Faculty

Play in a jazz combo! Hone your individual skills on your instrument and practice improvising. Improvisation is making music in the moment, and we'll help you learn more to build your confidence and freedom of expression. You'll also become a great team player. Use your ear and intuition to build basic music skills and become more comfortable relying on your own creativity. We'll cover all levels of improvisation and music making from beginning to advanced. For rhythm section players, specific instruction will be given on the role of the rhythm section, playing together, and practicing verbal and nonverbal communication. Pianists and guitarists will receive help with jazz chord voicing. Students will be grouped in combos by ability. *For any instrumentalists.*

CREATIVE WRITING

Writing Poetry—Amanda Beck & Will Smiley

The Greek word for poetry means doing and making. In this class you'll do things, sometimes strange things, with language. We'll explore the roots of poetry in sound, vision, feeling. You'll learn to pay more attention to the world around you, to find magic in patterns of language, and to develop a fondness for *le mot juste*. Huh? We'll read poems old and new, and you'll expand your definition of what poetry can be. You'll discover that poetry is about making exciting things happen in language. You will make exciting things happen in language. You'll learn by doing. Class size: 16

Writing your life (Non-fiction)— Will Smiley

The personal essay is a strange, fun genre of writing that's still in its infancy; it's only been around for a few hundred years! No one's really figured out its rules yet...but we'll try, and maybe make some new rules of our own. This class is all about figuring out how to draw on your own experiences, both major and minor, to write about your life in a way that's interesting, intellectually engaging, and emotionally resonant. We'll experiment and write lots and support each other as we each embark on writing ourselves out into the world. Class size: 16

Writing Short Story Fiction— Will Smiley

Short stories can be utterly fantastical or stridently realist or somewhere in between. That's the beauty of fiction. No matter what, though, we want our readers to be invested in our stories, to care about the conflicts and the characters! So how do we interest readers in something we're just, like, making up? In this class, we'll experiment and figure out how to make readers care about our characters and their problems – how to artfully lie and surprise and delight, whether our characters are just trying to get home or attempting to save their town from a space invader...who just happens to be nothing more than yellow dust. Class size: 16

Developing Character and Place (Fiction)—Amanda Beck

“You don't have to blow up the Chevrolet to make an interesting story.” – Charles Baxter
“Your characters should always want something, even if it's only a glass of water.” – Kurt Vonnegut

What do these truisms of fiction writing mean? How can we tell stories with shape and character? How do you transport someone to Sri Lanka or your own backyard or your own backyard in Sri Lanka with only words and sentences? We will read some published writing with these questions in mind, but, more important, we'll work on developing writing of your own. Come with a desire to tell stories – your stories, someone else's stories, stories no one has ever heard before – and we'll take it from there. Class size: 16

The Truth in Non-fiction—Amanda Beck

Learn about telling stories about your life and the lives of others. Learn how to craft your story so that it becomes engaging to someone who has never met you before. The techniques of creative nonfiction are related to those of fiction and poetry: voice, perspective, a strong sense of language, the ability to engage readers with vivid details. These are the things we'll look for in the work of published writers and we will discover how to build them into your own writing. We'll also notice colors, see birds, and sit by the ocean; and then we'll write about those things. You'll figure out what your relationship to facts is – do you want to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth? What happens if you lie in nonfiction? We'll find out. Class size: 16