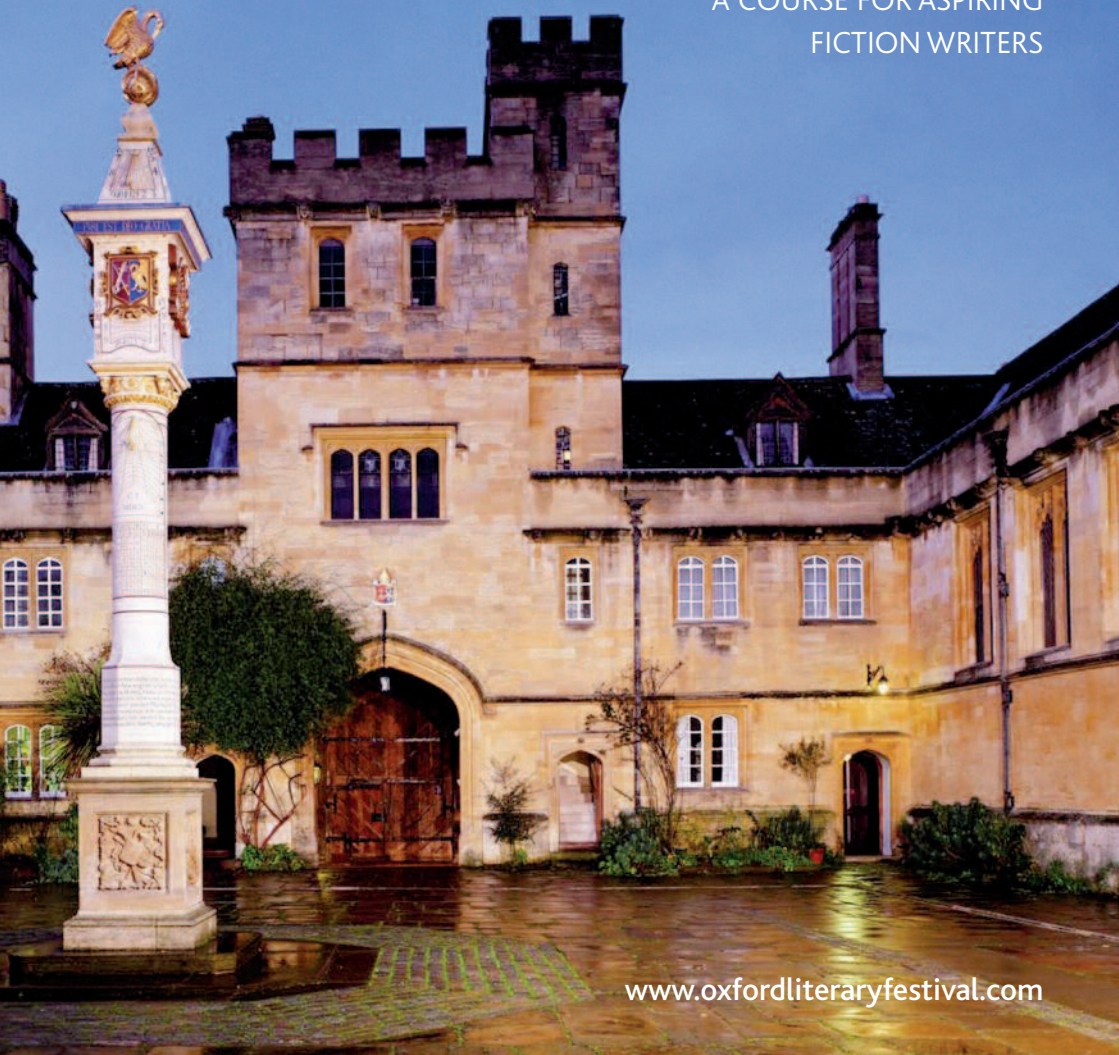



THE SUNDAY TIMES
OXFORD
LITERARY
FESTIVAL

Saturday 16th to
Friday 22nd March 2013

Creative Writing at Corpus Christi College

FINDING THE PLOT:
A COURSE FOR ASPIRING
FICTION WRITERS



www.oxfordliteraryfestival.com

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FINDING THE PLOT: A COURSE FOR ASPIRING FICTION WRITERS

The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival has a well-deserved reputation for enterprise and innovation, and the 2008 festival saw the introduction of a particularly exciting initiative: a five-day college-based residential course offering an opportunity for aspiring fiction-writers to hone their skills in the company of eminent authors and other representatives of the literary world.

Now in its sixth year, the course has established itself as a firm fixture. Providing a series of five two-hour tutor-led workshops, together with a series of ten one-hour talks (masterclasses) given by eminent novelists and other significant figures from the literary world, it is designed to serve the needs of writers who are interested in honing their creative skills in the company of a small, dedicated group. The learning environment is intentionally intimate: the course as a whole will have places for a maximum of 30 participants, while the group will be split into two sub-groups for workshops, each containing a maximum of 15 participants. The whole group will gather together for each talk in the masterclass series.

A particular attraction for 2013 will be the participation in the masterclass series of a group of notable visiting writers from the USA. Through the festival's association with the Virginia G Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University, participants will be able to gain fascinating insights into the process of writing from (in addition to the customary British writers) three American masters of their craft – see below for further details.

The workshops will be led by two knowledgeable tutors who are themselves well-known writers of fiction, Jem Poster and

Sarah Hall; in addition, the series of masterclasses will allow participants to listen to, and to engage in discussion with, a wide range of other literary practitioners.

The course offers a remarkable opportunity to experience life as a member of a creative community. Living, dining, learning and writing in one of Oxford's most attractive historic colleges, participants will be able to extend their understanding of their craft in the company of like-minded individuals.

The course offers five full teaching days and six nights of college accommodation. There is also the opportunity to sign up for a further short period of college accommodation, at a reasonable additional cost: this will allow participants to continue their writing practice beyond the time-frame of the course itself, or to attend some of the festival's other events. Oxford has helped to nurture the talents of many well-known writers of fiction: among the University's alumni are Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene, Aldous Huxley, William Golding, Kingsley Amis, V. S. Naipaul, Martin Amis and Julian Barnes.

Comments from previous participants

"The mixture of participants was magical, alchemical, inspirational."

*"Ticked all the boxes on expectations and ambitions. Now I don't just **think** I can be a writer – I **know** I can."*

"Wonderful environment – very stimulating. A window on another world. I absolutely loved it and found it to be the perfect setting for creative thinking and writing."

"Beyond my expectations – loved every minute of it. Thank you."

"Extremely helpful. I am now publishing some of my work – thank you all."

"Atmosphere is unique... I learned so much about the writing process and craft."

The inclusive charge per person is £1660 and includes all accommodation and full board. All rooms are en suite.

The Tutors

Jem Poster



Photo: Stephen Call

Jem Poster has edited a selection of George Crabbe's poetry and has written a study of the poetry of the 1930s; he is also the author of a collection of poetry, *Brought to Light*, and a past winner of the Cardiff International Poetry

Competition. His two novels, *Courting Shadows* and *Rifling Paradise*, were published in 2002 and 2006 respectively. He is Emeritus Professor of Creative Writing, Aberystwyth University, and Academic Director of the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival.

Sarah Hall



Photo: Richard Thwaites

Sarah Hall's first novel, *Haweswater* (2002) won several awards, including the 2003 Commonwealth Writers Prize (Overall Winner, Best First Book). Her second book, *The Electric Michelangelo* (2004) was shortlisted for the 2004 Man Booker

Prize for Fiction and the 2005 Commonwealth Writers Prize (Eurasia Region, Best Book). *The Carhullan Army* (2007), won the 2007 John Llewellyn-Rhys Memorial Prize and was shortlisted for the 2008 Arthur C Clarke Award for Best Science Fiction. Her fourth novel, *How to Paint a Dead Man*, was published in 2009; it was longlisted for the Man Booker prize and won the 2010 Portico Prize for Fiction. A collection of short stories, *The Beautiful Indifference*, was published in 2011; it won the Edge Hill short story prize and was short-listed for the Frank O'Connor Prize.



The Masterclass Speakers

Masterclass speakers in 2013 will include London literary agent **Luigi Bonomi**, founder-director of the LBA agency and recipient of *The Bookseller* Literary Agent of the Year award for 2010; **Lee Gutkind**, described by *Vanity Fair* as 'the Godfather behind creative nonfiction'; **Joanne Harris**, author of novels including the bestselling *Chocolat*; **Andrew Miller**, Booker-shortlisted novelist and winner of the 2012 Costa Award; **Jewell Parker Rhodes**, prizewinning African-American novelist; **James Sallis**, recipient of the Hammett Award for literary excellence in crime writing; and **Jacqueline Yallop**, whose second novel, *Obedience*, has been praised by Hilary Mantel and described by Julie Myerson in *The Observer* as 'by far the most impressive novel I read this year'.



Joanne Harris



Jewell Parker Rhodes



Andrew Miller

Photo: Abbie Trayler-Smith



Corpus Christi College

Corpus Christi College was founded in 1517 by Richard Foxe, Bishop of Winchester and a trusted diplomatic and political adviser to King Henry VII. Bishop Foxe had originally intended the College for the training of monks; if he had followed through with this plan, the College would probably have been dissolved in the Reformation of the next generation. Instead, he decided that the College should be a place of Renaissance learning for the education of young men in the humanities and the sciences.

The beautiful main quad, with its tower, dining hall, library and adjoining chapel were planned and completed under Foxe's guidance. Queen Catherine (of Aragon) was a friend of the College's first President, John Claimond, and would visit him in his College lodgings while her husband, Henry VIII, hunted at nearby Woodstock. Another early visitor was the great humanist scholar, Erasmus, who wrote admiringly of the College's library.

Many significant figures have been graduates or fellows of the college, among them the educational reformer Thomas Arnold, the Poet Laureate Robert Bridges, the art historian John Ruskin, the philosopher Isaiah Berlin and the novelist Vikram Seth.

BOOKING FORM FOR THE FICTION WRITING COURSE

THE COURSE FEES INCLUDE ALL TUITION AND MASTERCLASSES AND ALL EN SUITE ACCOMMODATION IN THE COLLEGE FOR A TOTAL OF 6 NIGHTS PLUS FULL BOARD CATERING (breakfast, lunch and dinner)

NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TELEPHONE
EMAIL

WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE COURSE?

PREVIOUS WRITING EXPERIENCE/HOPES

Please give a brief account of your previous writing experience, together with an account of what you hope to gain from the course. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS, ACCOMMODATION OR ACCESS NEEDS

AGE GROUP (PLEASE CIRCLE)

18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59
60-69	70-79	80+	

SIGNED

DATED

I CERTIFY THAT I AM AUTHORISED TO MAKE THIS BOOKING ON BEHALF OF THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE

EXTENDED STAY

Rooms for additional stay may be available, please enquire if you would like to stay beyond Friday 22nd. The Festival programme continues until March 24th.

HOW TO BOOK

For further information please contact **Susan Walker** on 07758 065283.

Or email: creativewriting@oxfordliteraryfestival.org

To confirm your booking, please fill in the attached booking form and return by post, enclosing a cheque for £1660 made out to 'The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival'.

Please return booking form and cheque to:
The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival
c/o 7 Threshers Yard, Kingham, Oxon, OX7 6YF

Inclusive charge per person: £1660 (includes all accommodation and full board. All rooms are en suite.)

ONLINE BOOKING

Bookings can now be made online at www.oxfordliteraryfestival.org

[Visa and Mastercard accepted, booking and transaction fees may apply]

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you cancel and we are able to fill your place on the course, you will be refunded the full fee. If we are unable to do so due to limited time before the course begins, the organisers reserve the right to retain your fee in full.

Times Newspapers Ltd (TNL), Blackwells and The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival (STOLF) directly or via their agents may mail, email, SMS or telephone you with future offers reflecting your preferences.

Tick if you do NOT want offers from:

TNL Blackwells STOLF

or third parties