CREATIVE WRITING

Writing the Wild: Ecstasy, Anger and Beauty in Modern Nature Writing
SJ Butler BA (Hons)
Workshops over 2 weeks 9, 16 October
Wednesdays 10.00 – 13.00
Course code: 19TON409 Course fee: £60

Limited places are available due to a smaller class size

Writing the wild: a lively, creative exploration of eco-writing today. From the joy and fear of the open marsh to the local taste of every earthworm, explore the latest writing about the natural world, ask what it reveals, and write your own wild words.

What is our place in the natural world today? In times when so many feel disconnected from each other and the natural environment, we will explore some of the most exciting work being published, and experiment with our own writing. This is a course for everyone, so you need only to bring curiosity and a pen and paper.

From Charles Foster’s best-selling Being a Beast (if you’ve ever wondered what worm tastes like, he’s your man) to Carol Donaldson’s personal story of walking the North Kent marshes (“In the openness of the marshes there is nowhere to hide from yourself”), writing about the natural world has surged in popularity. We’ll take a walk (swim, chew, climb) through some of the latest writing, ask what we mean by ‘the wild’, and why it feels to important to write about it, right now. What are we looking for in 21st century nature writing? Do we find it there?

Throughout the course we’ll write about the wild ourselves, exploring our own wild places, finding inspiration in objects, images, sound and others’ words, and turning over the stones of our own mysteries. Who knows what we will find?

Additional information
All reading will be supplied during the workshops.

No prior knowledge is needed. This course is suitable for all abilities. There is no assessment, formal or otherwise – we’ll share our writing in the workshop in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. There will be an optional writing task between the two sessions.
**Intended learning outcomes**

- The discovery of poetry and prose about the natural world by well-known and less-well known writers, from Charles Foster and Robert MacFarlane to Carol Donaldson and Helen Mort.

- An exploration of why we've always written about nature, and how writers are responding to climate and extinction crisis today. We'll ask how nature writing challenges us to think differently about the world we live in, and perhaps to take action. We'll also ask how writing that is based in the natural world reveals us to ourselves.

- Creation of your own work in response to the natural world and take away ideas for new writing.

**About the tutor**

SJ Butler writes, lives, swims and walks in East Sussex. Her short story, The Swimmer, is set in the upper Medway, and was published in Best British Short Stories 2011, and almost all her work is set in the local landscape. She is a member of Women Who Walk and has performed and written stories in tents and pubs and a disused light vessel.
Short Course Programme
General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- **Online Booking** is preferred. Please visit [www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge)
- **By post** to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course is confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:

a) exclude any student if the student’s presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge
For details of our other courses, news, events and location visit [www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge).

- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk). No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

**Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.**

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