



THE ART
OF
WRITING

SHORT STORIES,
LIFE WRITING

POETRY-
SCRIPT WRITING
& MORE...

REGISTER NOW:
OA-MINAOW-20

Overview

Programme title	Art of Writing (30 EC)	
Programme code	OA-MINAOW-20	
Level	Year 3/4, minor	
Semester	Fall (periods AB) & Spring (periods CD)	
Number of ECTS	30	
Language of instruction	English	
Profile of the programme	<p>Do you have a book, poetry anthology or play inside you, just waiting to be written? Tony Morrison once said, "If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." If you would like to, but don't know where to start, this minor is for you!</p> <p>The Art of Writing minor is for anyone who wants to develop their English writing skills, their creative process and their critical thinking abilities. With courses such as Short Stories, Life writing, Poetry- and Script writing, you will be challenged to learn about and try your hand at characterisation, world building, storytelling, poetry analysis, dialogue writing and much more.</p> <p>In a group of fellow aspiring writers, sessions will be led by experienced and knowledgeable teachers to explore existing literature and learn from the best. Through a series of lectures, workshops and feedback sessions, you will learn to understand contemporary literature, apply that understanding to your own practice and critically edit your work in order to clearly express your ideas and possibly even to prepare for publication.</p>	
Entry requirements + Language requirements	<p>A good command of English (B2, C1 or C2 level) or a higher Cambridge certificate. You do not need to prove this level in order to be accepted into the programme.</p> <p>In case you English language capabilities are not yet up to the required standard for this programme, you could prepare yourself by attending our two-weeks Summer Course Cambridge English First (B1+ → B2) from mid August on.</p>	
Course structure diagram with credits	Course unit title	Number of ECTS
	OA-MINWO1-23 Short Stories	5
	OA-MINWO4-23 Script Writing	5
	OA-MINWO3-23 Poetry Writing	5
	OA-MINWO2-23 Life Writing	5
	OA-MINW5A-23 Elective Project Fiction or OA-MINW5B-23 Elective Project Nonfiction	10
Name and email programme coordinator	Liz Thijssen, liz.thijssen@hu.nl	
Note	<p>Please note that the programme reflects a (<u>logical</u>) bundle of courses/subjects (and should normally be followed as such); it is <u>not</u> possible to combine (2 or more) programmes in one single period.</p> <p>Please note, by choosing this package you will have to participate in ALL the courses included, except for the choice of one Elective over another. Your presence will be expected at the sessions, as this is not a long-distance course.</p>	

The Courses

Short Stories (5EC)

Learn the foundations of story telling by writing a 4,000 word fictional short story. We'll discuss character building, plotting tools, worldbuilding, immersive settings, effective dialogue writing and more!

Learning objectives:

At the end of the course, you can:

- identify numerous literary devices in fictional works
- predict the effect that using literary devices might have on the reader
- respond to this knowledge by applying similar devices in their own writing

What students have said about the course:

"The course really taught me how to be a good writer, and what to think about before, during and after writer. I feel like it made my more conscious of my choice and thus I feel more confident in my writing."	"I love the community aspect of it, how the minor allows me to get to know other writers who are as passionate as me."	"The fact that you can be completely creative without constrictions when writing the short story is really fantastic."
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Script Writing (5EC)

How do you write an engaging, tense and immersive 10-minute script? What works for theatre, film or an audio play? What would your characters say and do to illustrate and explore the conflict? How do you use dialogue and the physical space to create a logical storyline?

Learning objectives

At the end of this course, you can:

- identify numerous literary devices in theatre and film scripts
- identify the differences (structural, content, stylistic) between numerous dramatic works
- predict the effect that using literary devices might have on the reader
- respond to this knowledge by applying similar devices in their own writing

What students have said about the course:

"The course teaches a lot about different kinds of scripts and allows for students to think outside the box and be very creative"	"I like how there is room for everybody to go at their own pace and have their own process."	"I really liked the different formats of scripts we were exposed to and also the scene we watched and analysed."
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Poetry Writing (5EC)

Tackle a different theme each week to build a poetry portfolio. Love, protest, comedy, death, it's all food for poetic thoughts (and verses), expressed through a variety of forms and techniques.

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, you can:

- identify numerous devices in poetry works
- predict the effect that using these devices might have on the reader
- respond to this knowledge by applying similar devices in their own writing

What students have said about the course:

"It was nice to be introduced to new methods of poetry writing in ways that didn't feel like there was homework that had to be done. It was a lot of fun exploring these methods and discussing them in class helped a lot!"	"I just really like that I can learn and write more when I thought it could only be a hobby. Now I learn a lot in a short time but will probably last forever! I had a really great time!"	"I think the workshops are very useful in helping to expand our own repertoire of techniques and knowledge on how to write a poem, mostly by being able to try things out and being inspired by the decisions our classmates make."
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Life Writing (5EC)

A course where *you're* the protagonist. It's your memoir, your testimony or confession, your life and thoughts. You'll write two 2,000 word assignments where you explore different writing techniques to get your message across in an engaging and cohesive way.

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, you can:

- identify the differences (structural, content, stylistic) between numerous nonfiction works
- predict the effect that a specific choice of work might have on the reader
- respond to this knowledge by applying similar choices in their own writing

What students have said about the course:

"I like the topic of writing about things in your own life rather than making something up. It gives me a new perspective!"	"Learning about non-fiction was very fun. I enjoyed reading the non-fiction pieces and learning the different writing techniques from those pieces. Also I think the 2 assignment were the exact right amount of workload."	"I liked how you could explore your own life through a format of a story and how it made you think and analyze your behavior and the behavior of others."
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The Elective Project (fiction, nonfiction or poetry) (10 EC)

The Big One: a 10,000 word project of *your* choosing. Nonfiction, Fiction, Script, Poetry, anything and everything is allowed. A complete story? Great! A collection of short stories or personal essays? Wonderful! The first few chapters of your debut novel? Amazing! We'll help you plot and plan, build and write, edit and polish, and then we'll finish with a session on how to get published.

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, you can:

- use the knowledge gained from previous courses to make literary choices in your own work
- plan and carry out a written work of 10,000 words

What students have said about the course:

"I liked how much time we had to write the elective and the comments and feedback received by the teacher and other students. Also characterization and lessons on plot were really helpful."	"I love that you get the freedom to explore your own stories! And that you get a lot of support and feedback"	"The course is very insightful and encourages consistent and critical writing. There is mild push for consistency expected by the teachers which was motivating. That personal attention helps with feeling special or seen and helps with writing progress."
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Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need any writing experience to take this minor?

Not at all! As long as you're interested in writing and reading, and learning about how to get your message across, you're good to go!

On what days is the minor taught?

It differs: we try to offer sessions across two days. This can be Mondays and Tuesdays, or Thursdays and Fridays. There is also a limited option to attend all the sessions in a single day!

A few months before the minor starts, the Minor coordinator emails all participants so they can indicate their availability. Based on the days that suit you best, we'll try to put you in a group that corresponds with your availability.

How are the sessions set up?

We work with a Workshop format. This means that for all courses there is a Plenary (group) session that deals with writing theory, and a smaller Workshop where students' individual work and questions are discussed.

As a result, though you are scheduled for 4 hours of class time per course, you're only expected to attend two of those hours per course: 1 hour for a teacher-led workshop in a smaller group, and 1 hour for a plenary session with the teacher and the whole group to discuss writing theory and practical tips.

The other two hours per course are ideally spent in student-led workshops/writing sessions (without the teacher present) but can be scheduled at any time that is convenient for you and your group. Usually, the time in between classes is perfect for this.

What is the course load like?

Though you'll only have a maximum of 6 hours of class a week, you'll be spending considerable hours each week reading and, most of all, writing. You'll be taking multiple courses, some that require a minimum of 500 words written (preferably more!) each week, so make sure you have time throughout the week to read, think, reflect, and write.

How good does my English have to be to take this minor?

There is no minimum requirement, but the better your English is, the easier the writing will be for you. At the very least, you want to have a B2 level, which is HAVO diploma level English. You can do a quick test here: <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/test-your-english/general-english/> to see what your level is.

Keep in mind this is not an English language learning minor, meaning no time will be spent on teaching you grammar, vocabulary, etc. However, you might very well find that your English improves through the process of writing. If you'd like to prepare and brush up on your English, there are online courses that you can take, such as the one linked in the overview.

How do I sign up?

Go to: <https://husite.nl/minors/inschrijven/> and sign up using the Minor code: **OA-MINAOW-20**.

"It's a fun and educational minor, offering plenty of creative freedom and excellent guidance from the instructors. The workgroups are comfortable, and the instructors foster a positive atmosphere among the students."	"It really is a super fun minor and definitely recommended for anyone who loves reading and/or writing!"	"I achieved things I didn't really thought I would be able to and I discovered things about my writing style I never really thought about before."
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