

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TITLE | Writing Short Stories |
| TUTOR | Henni Tremelett |

Dear Student,

Thank you for enrolling on this Lifelong Learning course. This letter gives you some further information. If you have any questions, please contact either:

**The LLL Office**: learning@aber.ac.uk

**The Tutor:** Henni Tremlett het6@aber.ac.uk

**The Co-ordinator:** Elin Mabbutt emm32@aber.ac.uk

We hope you enjoy the course.

Best Wishes,

**The Lifelong Learning Team**

**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**GETTING STARTED**

**Aberystwyth University Student Account**

Before you can begin your course, you need to activate your **Aberystwyth University Student Account**. After you pay and enrol, you will be sent your **unique student number** by the Lifelong Learning Administrator. This will enable you to obtain your student username and set a password for your student account.

Having an account gives you many additional benefits such as access to the university library and online journals, an email address, and discounts for university services.

[Click here](https://myaccount.aber.ac.uk/open/activate/) to find all the instructions you will need to set up your student account.

Once you have completed this process login to your [Aberystwyth University email account here](https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/oauth2/authorize?client_id=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&redirect_uri=https%3a%2f%2foutlook.office.com%2fowa%2f&resource=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&response_mode=form_post&response_type=code+id_token&scope=openid&msafed=0&client-request-id=1a50f117-68e4-464d-b9c3-80fd788cb7e5&protectedtoken=true&claims=%7b%22id_token%22%3a%7b%22xms_cc%22%3a%7b%22values%22%3a%5b%22CP1%22%5d%7d%7d%7d&domain_hint=aber.ac.uk&nonce=637354312838097988.a0319ebd-6272-4475-a59a-e0b8afa5fbe1&state=Dcs7DoMwEEVRO1kJTTobf5lxgbKWNzBIUUCRkBK2HxfndtcaY-7drbOhx9CUKdeSY-LMoVFj9gg5NpXVTYmSK4WqQ21wGoSxoW6i0fZ3GD8Xxuep2I8ZoqfH4r_vx2-dL5UDr_0P)

# Online Learning Environment: Blackboard

Once you have an active username and password you can login to our **online learning environment** called **Blackboard** by going to[https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk.](https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk/) This is where you can access the learning materials for your course, interact online with your tutor and other students and submit your assignments. [Guide to Blackboard Ultra - Students  : Information Services , Aberystwyth University](https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/it-services/elearning/blackboard/guidetoblackboardultra-students/)

# Microsoft Teams

Your course may include one or more live online learning webinars or seminars. If so, these will be held using the online platform **Microsoft Teams**. Like Blackboard, you can access Teams online by going to<https://teams.microsoft.com/>and logging in with your Aberystwyth University student username and password. Although not essential, we would recommend you download the Microsoft Teams software onto your desktop. Once you have logged in, you can do this from the Microsoft Teams homepage. Click on the circle in the top right-hand corner of the screen and select **Download the Desktop App.**

If an online meeting has been scheduled by your tutor you will receive an email to your **University Email Account** that will contain a link, which you can click on to join the meeting. Alternatively, if you go to your **Calendar** in Microsoft Teams, which is on the left-hand side of the screen, you will see a **Join button** appear by the meeting just before it begins, which you can click on.

If you haven’t used Microsoft Teams before I would recommend watching this one minute [**video (link)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pauAUOl8v4) so you know what to expect.

 **COURSE OUTLINE**

Have you every thought of writing a short story but the “shortness” presents you with particular problems? Then this module is for you. As well as developing the knowledge and skills in aspects and techniques of short story writing, you will learn from the reading and analysis of published short stories. You will also have the opportunity to give and receive constructive criticism regarding the evolution of your own work and that of others. Students will be encouraged to keep a notebook as their repository of ideas.

This course is suitable for beginners who might be trying to write creatively for the first time and for more experienced writers who are keen to develop new techniques and improve their writing skills further.

Writing Short Stories can be studied as a stand-alone course, but it is also an optional module for the Certificate of Higher Education in Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the specific methods and techniques required to write short stories
2. Identify specific elements of the short story in published works
3. Record their own ideas in a notebook
4. Review and edit their work
5. Produce a finished short story
6. Give and receive constructive criticism on own work and other’s work

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Activities and tasks will be embedded into each unit so students can practise the techniques they have learned and develop their skills. Students will be encouraged to share their own work and participate in discussions.

1. The differences between the novel and short story writing. The importance of keeping a notebook
2. Reading selected texts; what can we discover?
3. Learning to read as a writer; an analysis of the techniques and solutions displayed by selected published writers
4. Elements of the short story;
5. Plot - “Hooking” the reader
6. Character – ways of developing a character – engaging with the reader
7. Point of View – who is telling the story, to whom and with what agenda?
8. Structure – Getting the right balance of setting character and plot
9. Language - what is good and what to avoid in dialogue , the use of tense
10. Editing your work. Giving and receiving criticism of own and others’ work Dealing with rejection

**ASSESSMENTS**

1. Short story (1600 words) (70% of the overall mark)
2. Critical reflective commentary 400 words (40% of the overall mark)

Find our full programme listings here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/courses/>

Are you interested in completing a Certificate in Higher Education? If you are, speak to your tutor or contact the co-ordinator: emm32@aber.ac.uk

**Don’t forget to follow us on social media to keep updated about Lifelong Learning at Aberystwyth University:**

**Facebook**: Dysgu Gydol Oes Aberystwyth Lifelong Learning

**Twitter**: @Aber\_LLL

**Instagram**: @aberystwyth.lifelong.learning