

This archive treats Creative Writing as a subject of study, a practical creative discipline and as a professional occupation.

It makes discussion and development materials available to teachers and students of Creative and Professional Writing.

The archive questions assumptions about what writing is, what it is to write, what writing does and what it means to be a writer. It concentrates on the following interlinked themes:

- Developing Creative Practice
- Product & Placement
- Writing Processes
- Professional Development
- Research for Writers
- Writing & Responsibility
- Writing as Representation.

The archive compliments the materials in *Creative & Professional Writing @ University: Frequently Asked Questions*.

CREATIVE & PROFESSIONAL WRITING

An Archive of Teaching
&
Discussion Materials

Carl Tighe

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- 2: Creative and Professional Writing - Learning and Teaching – Techniques – Theory
- 3: Creative and Professional Writing - Writing Workshop
- 4: Literature – Creative and Professional Writing
- 5: Humanities – Study and Teaching

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INTRODUCTION

This archive makes discussion and development materials available to teachers and students of Creative and Professional Writing. It approaches the subject through the questions writers ask about writing, rather than the questions an English department might ask about literature. It treats Creative Writing as a subject of study, a practical creative discipline and as a professional occupation. It questions assumptions about what writing is, what it is to write, what writing does and what it means to be a writer. It concentrates on the following interlinked themes:

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I have been asked why this archive does not offer practical classroom writing exercises: after all, surely the object of Creative Writing is simply to help students become better writers. As there is no shortage of books and websites devoted to writing exercises, I suspect this question is often asked because the subject is not much understood and is still expected to legitimise itself within the academy.

The question is also asked because where writing is offered at undergraduate level it usually consists of a couple of modules on an English degree. However, at the University of Derby we delivered an undergraduate degree in Creative and Professional Writing – the first degree of its kind in the UK. In developing a degree in this subject I felt we had to do something more than offer three years of writing exercises: the degree had to do what all first degrees do for their subject. It had to:

- introduce writing as a subject of study
- offer an academic core (history, theory and philosophy)
- offer genre-specific knowledge
- begin to develop an understanding of professional practice.

As all these things have a specific ‘writerly’ aspect and methodology quite distinct from the work of English, we initiated our own subject-specific reading, case studies and examples, practical research strategies and professional development. However, the materials presented here can be adapted to all levels of study – from A-level to PhD - and can be used across the whole range of ‘Literary Studies’.

These materials were developed from the needs of students, from my own classroom experience and from the wit, wisdom and patience of my colleagues at

University of Derby. I would like to thank: Tony Rees, Liz Cashdan, Ann Atkinson, Bali Sihota, Carole Arijoki, Ian Barnes, Maggie and Tim Shields, Sam Kasule, Robert Hudson, Bev Llewellyn, Linda Kempton, Gerry Kreibich, Greg Heath, Raymond Greenoaken, Steve Wetton, Brendan Murphy, Chris Thompson, Matt Clegg, Adrian Buckner, Joe Coghlan, Moy McCrory, Simon Heywood and Jerry Hope.

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Writing the World: Writing as a Subject of Study (Kingston University Press, 2014)

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