

Friday, November 7, 2025

Lobby 6:30	DOORS OPEN Reception
Lobby 7:00	WELCOME AND CONFERENCE KICK OFF
Lobby 7:15	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Rebecca Brown: Writing Has Been About Connecting for Forever, Including Now This talk draws on rich, often surprising stories of how writers throughout history have supported, challenged, and inspired one another—helping to shape and shepherd each other's work into the world. From famous literary friendships and behind-the-scenes editorial relationships to quiet acts of encouragement and mentorship, we'll explore how creative kinship has long been essential to the writing life. By revisiting these models of collaboration, we'll consider what they might offer us today as we navigate our own writing paths—reminding us that while writing may be solitary, the journey need not be lonely.
9:00	DOORS CLOSE

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Lobby 8:30	DOORS OPEN		
Lobby 9:00 - 10:00	SESSION ONE		
	Main class: Show AND Tell: the use of “telling” details in narrative prose In this interactive session, we'll explore how published authors use visual detail (<i>show</i>) and narrative voice (<i>tell</i>) to bring characters to life in both memoir and fiction. Together, we'll read short passages (hand-outs provided), discuss techniques, and create our own original writing. Please bring paper, pen or pencil, and an eager spirit. Writers of all genres and experience levels are welcome!		
10:15 - 11:15	SESSION TWO		
	<i>Room 104</i> Tara Campbell The Power of Detail: Developing Characters from Art Teaching author Tara Campbell will guide participants through strategies for developing complex characters inspired by close observation of art. The workshop will focus on an early portrait by prolific African-American photographer Gordon Parks, and participants will come away with techniques they can carry over to any other artwork they choose.	<i>Room 105</i> Bronwyn Scott Once Upon a Time: Crafting Effective first chapters This session will explore the essential elements of an opening chapter and help you create a checklist to follow as well as strategies for crafting opening lines, drip feeding information, ways to showcase valuable first impression information about the protagonist and their circumstances as well as pitfalls to avoid.	<i>Room 102</i> Shama Shams Healing Through Story Telling Explore the transformative power of storytelling as a tool for healing, empathy, and community-building. Aimed at beginner and intermediate writers, this session will provide a comprehensive understanding of how storytelling can address trauma, bridge divides, and create deeper connections. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to apply storytelling in their writing projects, particularly those focused on personal reflection, community narratives, or social change.
	SESSION THREE		

11:30 - 12:30	<i>Room 104</i> Alle Hall How to Publish Short Work: Stories, Essays, Poetry, Journalism Where do you submit short stories, essays/creative nonfiction and/or poems? Beginning to intermediate writers will come to understand the publishing industry and their evolving place in it. Through discussion, example, and exercises, we explore genre; researching magazines and journals; money; crafting query letters; submissions, rejection and rebound; and tools for finding the best place to submit your work. Students will leave with a solid understanding of the publishing industry and a query letter.	<i>Room 105</i> Star Wuerdemann Resilient Writing Practice via Community & Accountability One of the biggest hurdles for writers is creating a regular writing practice—and keeping it going long-term. Geared specifically toward beginners, this presentation teaches writers how to build a sustainable writing practice through key strategies: developing resilience, creating personalized accountability systems, and finding a supportive, reciprocal literary community.	<i>Room 102</i> Valerie Ozgenc Unlock the Heart of Your Memoir Through a mix of creative exercises, including a character development tarot/oracle deck session, you'll explore key elements of memoir writing: from defining your narrative arc to developing complex characters and tapping into the emotional truth of your experiences.
12:30-1:30	Lunch on your own		
1:45-2:45	SESSION FOUR		
	<i>Room 104</i> Rick Bleiweiss Book and Audiobook Publishing Want to know about audiobooks, eBooks book publishing or becoming a successful author? This informative session will answer questions such as: Differences between traditional, hybrid and self-publishing. What goes into making an audiobook? What does it take to get an agent and a publisher?	<i>Room 105</i> Bob Balmer Creating New Worlds Where a story takes place matters. Discover how place can drive plot. How the writer can make the unbelievable believable-- creating Verisimilitude. The use of magical realism to make a point. During the workshop, attendees will practice the concepts and skills being shared to create their own product.	<i>Room 102</i> Mary Boone Not as Easy as It Looks Writing for Kids Writing for children may seem simple, but crafting engaging, age-appropriate stories is a skill. This session explores key categories, reader expectations, storytelling techniques, and the business of children's publishing. Gain insights, practical tips, and industry knowledge to bring your stories to young readers successfully. Best for beginner to intermediate writers.
3:00-4:00	SESSION FIVE		
	<i>Room 104</i> Denise Frisino Writing for the Big Screen Screen Writing is a specific format that is both challenging and exciting. Besides character development, dialogue, pacing, settings, and intriguing story line, basic knowledge of the industry is essential. This course goes beyond format, providing a look at scripts and resources available to perfect your movie.	<i>Room 105</i> HR Hegnauer How to Design Your Author Website with Style and Know-How Need an author website but don't know where to start? This planning workshop covers everything you need to know to imagine and create an engaging, user-friendly website. Learn how to design a polished, professional site that reflects your unique voice and supports your books, projects, research, and long-term creative presence online. You'll also leave with key handouts to continue thinking through all the possibilities around your	<i>Room 102</i> Leslie Hall Got Ideas? Have trouble producing new story ideas? Perhaps you start ideas but get bored part-way through. We'll help you work through ways to generate ideas that excite you and have enough 'meat' to become a finished work; testing story ideas, managing writers block, sustaining the muse, and organizing your work process.

		website as well as a 100-point checklist to make sure you're covering all your logistical needs.	
Lobby 4:00	CLOSING REMARKS		
4:30	DOORS CLOSE		