

Creative Writing Class

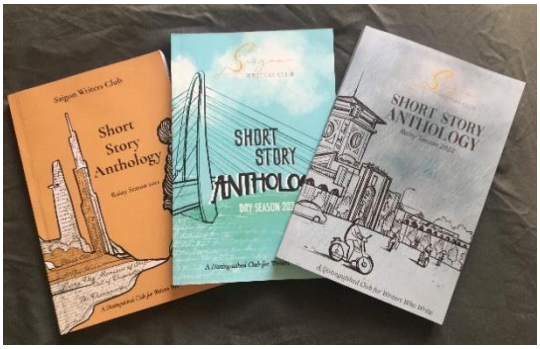
Online Class for Study Abroad Students

May to June, 2023

This is a class for aspiring writers, students, and lovers of literature to study the craft of creative writing, research and write their own fictional short stories, and become published authors.

The **Saigon Writers Club** is a private and in-person and/or online creative writing class for people who have always wanted to write and publish fiction. The founder and instructor is Sam Korsmoe, an American writer who has written and published two books, will have his third book about the future of Vietnam published in August/September 2023, and was a journalist for several years. He has taught creative writing to adults and youth for several years and has accumulated 10,000 hours of writing practice.

The Club's first five creative writing classes have been completed and its first three short story anthologies have been published (photo). This creative writing class for study abroad students will be online and will begin in May. The goal is to help the student write and publish their own short story as tangible evidence of creativity for future university and scholarship applications. The course syllabus for the entire 10-session, ten-week creative writing class has been included with this program. The short stories from this class will be published in the **Dry Season 2023 Short Story Anthology.**



Course Deliverables: The course lectures, activities, and discussions will be in the English language. There will be 15 hours of online instruction for the entire class plus two 30- to 45-minute sessions of one-to-one private consultations for each student with the instructor. All course materials will be provided. The first private session will be when the student has written around 3,000 words of his/her short story. The second private session will be when the student has written at least 5,000 words and has a good sense of how to end the story. The private sessions are intended to help the student complete their short story by the deadline so it can be ready for publication in the Dry Season 2023 Short Story Anthology.

Location: The classes will be online. Sam Korsmoe will teach the class from HCM City.

Course Objective: Each student will write a short story which will be published.

Class Capacity: The class is limited to six students.

Tuition: The cost of the class is VND 5,000,000 per student which is inclusive of all course materials, teaching, consulting, and final deliverables.

Final Deliverable: Saigon Writers Club – Short Story Anthology – Dry Season 2023
Each student will receive a free copy of this anthology with their short story published within and have the option to purchase additional copies at cost.

Course Syllabus

The classes will be separated into ten 90-minute classes with each class consisting of three sections. These are a lecture section on a specific topic of fiction, an activities section to practice the topic of the lecture, and a final section for class discussions in pairs and/or as a full class. The 'I Love Words' and 'Short Story Discussion' components will be held for each class though they might be abbreviated. The curriculum is detailed below for each class.

Date	Lecture Topic (30 minutes)	Class Activity (30 minutes)	Class Discussion (30 minutes)
May	**1 – Short story structure**; Coming up with story ideas	1 – Brainstorm story ideas; Design story arc;	1 – Talk about family, adventures, & story ideas
May	**2 – Character development**; Building round characters	2 – Create round characters; List attributes of character	2– Introduce character; Present and interview; Short Story Discussion
May	**3 – Methods for character portrayal & development**; Building round characters	3 – Create character outlines; Q&A plot treatment One-inch windows; I Love Words Exercise	3 – Share plot treatment; Share I Love Words exercise; Short Story Discussion
May	**4 – Plot models;** Steps of the short story arc; Writer types	4 – Story outlines; Testing models; Define conflict;	4 – Sharing your plot plan; Introduce characters; Short Story Discussion
May	**5 – Setting, time, mood, & place of a story;** Combining character, plot, & setting	5 – Describing environments & moods; Building settings; I Love Words Exercise	5 – Introduce setting; Talk through a first draft; Short Story Discussion
June	**6 – Point of view options** (1st & 3rd); Author, Character, & Narrator of a short story	6 – Describe events in 1st & 3rd person point of view; I Love Words Exercise	6 – Explain your POV; Describe the narrator; Short Story Discussion
June	**7 – Voice, Sentence Structure, & Word Choice;** Writing Style; Paragraphing;	7 – Building a voice; How to show not tell; Testing voices; I Love Words Exercise	7 – Talk about your style; What do you *sound* like? Short Story discussion
June	**8 – Dialogue and Scenes;** How dialogue shapes plot; Advancing plot with scenes	8 – Create a dialogue & build a scene from a prompt; I Love Words Exercise	8 – Talk about minor & major scenes of your story; Short Story Discussion
June	**9 – Beginnings & Endings;** Lead & Close methods; Character epiphanies	9 – Write opening paragraph; Edit close of your story; I Love Words Exercise	9 – Discuss & defend your stories lead and close; Short Story Discussion
June	**10 – Final edits;** Finishing the story; Publishing; Using images in the story	10 – Line edits; 'Killing your babies'; Finishing a scene; Discuss cover designs	10 – Talk about the feelings your story should evoke;

Assigned Short Story Reading

The students will be assigned and be expected to read a short story written by one of the master fiction writers. These stories will be included with the course materials. Each short story will be relevant to that week's lecture topic and class activity. The class will discuss the stories during the class discussion session. Some of the stories to be assigned will include the following though others might be added:

- **The Short Happy Life of Francis McCumber** by Ernest Hemingway
- **The Ransom of Red Chief** by O'Henry
- **To Build A Fire** by Jack London
- **The Tell Tale Heart** by Edgar Allen Poe
- **Broke Back Mountain** by Annie Proulx
- **Good Scent from a Strange Mountain** by Robert Olen Butler
- **The Killers** by Ernest Hemingway
- **Fetching Raymond** by John Grisham

How to sign up

The signup process for the **Saigon Writers Club** classes is very simple. Send an email to Sam Korsmoe at sam@yespi.net with the following information included:

Name:
Email Address:
Telephone Number:
Native Language:

A VND 1,000,000 deposit is required to reserve a seat in the class with the remaining amount of VND 4,000,000 due prior to the first class. The bank details for transfers are as follows:

Bank: BIDV
Account Holder: Huynh Thi Kim Thao
Account Number: 31110001337187

If you have any questions, please call Sam directly at 0904 347 591. Check out the club's website to learn more.

Thank You!!

Sam Korsmoe

Founder/Teacher of the **Saigon Writers Club**

www.saigonwritersclub.com