

## NOTES

OM: Open Manuscripts- you may bring any work (in progress or completed) that you wish to share with group

Competitions and homework will be 1500 words maximum for prose and 40 lines for poetry submissions unless stated otherwise.

### Erskine Writers Syllabus 2025/26

| Date           | Topic                                                                        | Competition Deadlines/Guest Speakers/Leads                                           | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd September  | Welcome - Guide to the year ahead, review of syllabus. Open Manuscripts (OM) |                                                                                      | Yearly subscriptions due                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9th September  | Double Decker Writing                                                        | Joan                                                                                 | Two words selected from two bags randomly. One a noun, the other an adjective. 'The' is placed in front of the two words selected group to write short story based on the title they have selected. |
| 16th September | A Little bit of Brit Abroad                                                  |                                                                                      | Homework                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 23rd September | AGM, review of post holders +OM                                              | Sandra, Rob, Donnie, Morag                                                           | Planning for Burrell Collection visit                                                                                                                                                               |
| 30th September | Visit to Burrell Collection 1.00pm start                                     | Sandra                                                                               | Discuss transport details for visit                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7th October    | Writing a piece in any genre from inspired by visit to Burrell Collection    | Competition 1 Poetry Entries to Morag by midnight<br>Adjudicator Magi Gibson         | Homework                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 14th October   | Open Manuscripts                                                             |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 21st October   | I Picked It Up To Have a Better Look<br>Short Story 1500 words               |                                                                                      | Homework                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 28th October   | Workshop on Biography and Memoir                                             | Rodge Glass                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 4th November   | Results and adjudications of Competition 1                                   | Competition 2 Teen Fiction Entries to Morag by midnight<br>Adjudicator Vikki Gemmell |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11th November | OM                                                                                              |                                                                                                   | This is a specific addition for anyone entering the SAW competition and wants feedback on their entry before submission or for any previously heard piece which has been revised or edited |
| 18th November | Flash Fiction (Wordle) led by John H.                                                           | John H                                                                                            | Afternoon tea at Calders 3.00 - 4.30                                                                                                                                                       |
| 25th November | Workshop on Humorous Writing                                                                    | David Ross<br>Competition 3. A memoir.<br>Entries to Morag by midnight<br>Adjudicator Rodge Glass |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2nd December  | Results and adjudications of Competition 2                                                      |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9th December  | Christmas pies & Quiz OM<br>Christmas Limerick or Haiku                                         |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|               | <b>Christmas/New Year Break</b>                                                                 |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 6th January   | Results and adjudications of Competition 3                                                      |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 13th January  | Book Review                                                                                     | Competition 4 A Humorous Article<br>Entries to Morag by midnight<br>Adjudication by David Ross    | Homework                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 20th January  | OM                                                                                              |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 27th January  | What I think of Burns?                                                                          |                                                                                                   | Homework                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3rd February  | Recycling, updating, modernisation etc of any fairy tale, nursery rhyme, myth, legend or fable. |                                                                                                   | Homework                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10th February | Results and adjudications of Competition 4                                                      |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 17th February | Hilary's Magic Mixtures                                                                         | Hilary                                                                                            | Homework                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| 24th February | The song's the story.<br>What is the story portrayed by the lyrics of a particularly favourite song? |                                            | Homework                         |
| 3rd March     | In world of change the heart remains constant<br>Local anchor holds.                                 |                                            | Homework                         |
| 10th March    | OM                                                                                                   |                                            |                                  |
| 17th March    | The Wearing of the Green                                                                             |                                            | Homework prose or poem           |
| 24th March    | SAW Conference feedback                                                                              |                                            | Open Manuscripts if time permits |
| 31st March    | Paired discussion groups on Syllabus 2026/27                                                         |                                            |                                  |
|               | <b>Easter Break</b>                                                                                  |                                            |                                  |
| 21st April    | Dialogue Exercise<br>A conversation with your favourite toy                                          |                                            |                                  |
| 28th April    | Short Story 1500 words<br>The Fugitive or The Stray or SOS                                           |                                            | Homework                         |
| 5th May       | Round Robin in class                                                                                 |                                            | Homework (500 words)             |
| 12th May      | A recipe for...<br>anything OTHER than a meal                                                        |                                            |                                  |
| 19th May      | <b>Garden party &amp; prize giving</b>                                                               |                                            |                                  |