

POETRY KIT ONLINE POETRY COURSES



"...extraordinary value for money."

**Wherever you are as a poet
we can help you get to the next level.
Courses for beginners and experienced poets.
Mentoring and critique service also available.**

AUGUST 2021

POETRY KIT COURSES

All Poetry Kit courses are distance learning conducted using email as the basic delivery mechanism and any download content can be done at a time to suit the student. There is nothing needed other than a way to communicate with us, tablet, phone, laptop etc.

Generally there are no set times to attend or sign in, and this flexibility means that a student can engage at a time which is right for them. This enables students from around the world, in many different time zones, to participate fully. For some courses there is a weekly time table, where tasks have to be completed within the week.

On some courses, for those who want to engage with others, there is the option of a forum for the purpose of peer review and some discussion. This is through email and can be a valuable contribution to the overall experience.

All feedback to students is given personally and privately by the course leader and this will always seek to be encouraging, supportive and authoritative.

In this Brochure you will find details of all our courses and how to enrol

SPECIAL OFFER Book any two of the short courses for £50 using the link below, and then please write to us at info@poetrykit.org to let us know which two courses you want.
https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=6ESMVNLE4NG6Q

This offer includes the Summer School.

Some comments from students related to the short courses.

“...you've saved many hours of my precious time writing many words and going nowhere creative fast. I've loved this course - three weeks is a perfect length of time to totally immerse yourself...” BF

“... thank you so much for the course - immensely enjoyable. ...feedback priceless.” JM

Thanks... for your kind comments and for an inspiring course, which has also been great fun.” DK

“Thanks for all the useful advice and information.... I really enjoyed the course and learned a lot so thank you” FW

“Thank YOU, for an interesting, fun and well-conceived course, full of varied exercises and inspiring poetry. I really enjoyed it and feel that what I wrote... (I) would not otherwise have attempted.” AMcI

UPCOMING SHORT COURSES

Poetry Kit's online short courses are over three weeks and a place can be booked by paying the fee using the PayPal link below the required course.

Summer School 2nd August– 5th September 2021 - **New content**

These year's 5-week Summer School focuses on contemporary 21st Century Poetry. With exercises, tutorials and reliable feedback the students will explore different poetry styles. They will be introduced to new ways to approach their own poetry and helped to develop skills that will ensure that they will be able to develop further as poets. They will undertake a personal project and get help in identifying their strengths so that they can get the very best from their poetry. The Summer School is online over a five week period at a cost of £45

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=DL4U7KBE3H9NN

The fee is reduced to £30 for anyone who has taken one of our other courses at any time. For the reduced fee please use this link

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=H88BLH9Z73ZEY

Writing Poetry for Children - 6th – 26th September 2021

This is a short online course for poets who would like to write poetry for children. On this workshop course we will look at what works in poetry for children and what does not.

Language and imagery, metaphor and how children see the world. Holding a young person's interest and storytelling through poetry. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=VS2TUQGPXYQFS

Writing in traditional forms - 6th – 26th September 2021

This three week course looks at new modern ways to use traditional forms. These forms can be ways for poets to grow the tools available and to find new ways to say what they want.

These forms can produce memorable and exciting ways to explore modern topics. This is a challenging course that asks poets to look at some traditional forms in new ways. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=GY3FNDXNXT3H6

Writing Poetry and getting published – 6th – 26th September 2021

This short online course is for poets who would like to know some of the ways in which they can improve their chances of publication either in magazines or in their own books of poetry.

This involves, approaches to writing poetry, promoting and presenting poetry, and finding new markets for your poetry.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=CL9P29RURXD9L

Strategies for Writing Poetry – 6th – 26th September 2021

What do you do when you hit a point when the ideas and ability that you rely on for writing poetry dry up. This happens to most writers from time to time, and on this course, we will look at proven strategies to get past this point. This is a course suitable for everyone even if you do not have a problem as these are strategies to help approach poetry in new ways. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YSCXM42LTKWGU

Poetry Kit offers several longer courses for poets.

Poetry Foundation

As a general rule, if you are new to writing poetry, and are looking to find out more, and to see if you have an aptitude for it, then the Foundation Course, would be the right course for you. This helps to create the time and space to explore poetry and get into the habit of writing on a regular basis, also helps to consider the subject. At the end of the Foundation Course the poet should be forming the habit of writing, recognising subjects. They should also be developing skills in reading and editing their own poetry.

Poetry Course - Part 1

The Part 1 Poetry Course is for the poet who is trying to explore poetry and develop their style. This course looks at form and structure in poetry. A broad course that will give a wider view of poetry, help the poet to broaden their writing and learn about the various poetic devices and effects that can be used. At the end of this course the poet should have an understanding of form, structure and style. Editing and rewriting skills should be improved. They should also have an indication of what editors are looking for in selecting poems for publication.

Poetry Course - Part 2

The Part 2 Poetry Course. This course helps the poet to develop their own voice and individuality at the same time broadening the appeal of the poem and considering the audience as an intrinsic part of the creative process. At the end of this course the poet should be able to consider particular markets and readership. Have an understanding and be able to identify and use appropriate poetic devices, and be able to create poetry which is crafted and individual.

Mentoring Programme

The Mentoring Programme is for those who have been writing for some time and who want to find new ways to develop their poetry. Mentoring focuses on the needs of the individual. So aspects of writing are explored and techniques engaged to explore and present alternatives to push the poet to achieve their potential. Bad habits are identified and strategies for writing and further development are considered. At the end of mentoring the poet should be better able to identify problems in their writing and be prepared to experiment and develop their style. The Mentoring Programme can be taken up to 5 times.

Critique

This is a service available from Jim Bennett, allowing those using the service to send 10 poems and have them individually critiqued by Jim who is an internationally known, prize-winning poet. By sending poems over a period of time the participant can use the service to develop their skills and to get feedback on their progress

JIM BENNETT

Course supervisor and principal lecturer.



Jim Bennett lives near Liverpool in the UK and is the author of 78 books, including books for children, books of poetry and many technical titles on transport and examinations.

His poetry collections include.

Drums at New Brighton (Lifestyle 1999)

Down in Liverpool (CD) (Long Neck 2001)

The Man Who Tried to Hug Clouds (Bluechrome 2004 reprinted 2006)

Larkhill (Searle Publishing 2009)

The Cartographer / Heswall (Indigo Dreams 2013)

He has won many awards for his writing and performance including 3 DADAFest awards. He is also managing editor of www.poetrykit.org one of the world's most successful internet sites for poets. He has been nominated for a Pushcart Award on 10 occasions and shortlisted for the Basil Bunting Award in 2013.

Jim taught Creative Writing at the University of Liverpool and now tours throughout the year giving readings and performances of his work.

In 2020 Jim Bennett's many booklets and pamphlets of poetry some of which are unavailable in print are being reissued in Kindle editions. You can see all the available Kindle publications at Jim Bennett's Authors page on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/-/e/B00DHD7F4Q>

Poetry Foundation Course

Duration - 7 units - of exercises, feedback and guided study.

The Course - This foundation course in writing poetry takes the participant through some of the basic processes of writing poetry with lots of practical examples and writing exercises. The purpose of the course is to allow the participant to explore many aspects of writing poetry and to introduce them to a wider reading and understanding.

The course will look at modern free form poetry and the principles of good writing practice. This course has been introduced to enable those who are relatively new to poetry to develop their skill and to learn more about contemporary poetry.

relatively new to poetry to develop their skill and to learn more about contemporary poetry.

Qualifications required - People wishing to take this course do not require any previous qualifications, they do however need to have an interest in the craft of writing poetry and a determination to improve their writing.

Poetry Foundation

This course takes the participant through some of the basic processes of writing poetry in what we hope they will find is an entertaining and interesting way. We hope to help them develop good practise and a structured approach to writing. This is achieved through a series of set exercises backed up with help and feedback. The purpose is to allow the participant to build their skills of observation and develop clarity of language and expression while at the same time allowing their individual voice and technique to develop.

Some items covered

- Introduction, styles and types of poetry.
- How to read poetry
- How to write a poem
- Engaging the reader
- Using a notebook and recording snapshots.
- Sources of poetry
- Revising a poem
- Using figurative language

Fee - The course fee is £65 (UK£)

Part 1 Poetry Course

Duration - 10 units

The Course - This course takes the participant through some of the basic processes of writing poetry in an entertaining and interesting way. Through a series of set exercises, discussions and critique sessions, backed up with talks, notes and feedback. The purpose of the course is to allow the participant to build their skills of observation and clarity of language while at the same time following their individual voice and technique to develop.

The course looks at a variety of styles and forms of poetry which will allow the participant to build a sound knowledge of some of the technical terms while utilising them in a practical and interesting way. The course includes elements relating to preparing and submitting poems for publication, reading poems and presenting them in a live setting, revising poetry and editing.

Poetry 1

The course looks at a variety of styles and forms of poetry which will allow the participant to build a sound knowledge of some of the technical aspects while utilising them in a practical and interesting way. The course includes elements relating to preparing and submitting poems for publication, reading poems, revising poetry and editing.

Some items covered

Poetic structure
Contemporary Poetry
Transparency
Authenticity
Writing free form poetry
Lines and Stanza structures
Modern form and structure
Editing
Traditional forms
Markets / Getting published

Qualifications required - People wishing to take this course do not require any previous qualifications, they do however need to have an interest in the craft of writing poetry and a determination to improve their writing.

Fee - The course fee is £80 (UK£)

Part 2 Poetry Course

Duration - 10 units

The Course - This course in writing poetry takes the participant on from the point of Poetry 1 and is intended for those with some experience at writing and who wish to develop their skills further. The objectives of the course are achieved through exercises designed to introduce new concepts in writing and challenge the participant, backed up with talks, notes, support and feedback. The purpose of the course is to allow the participant to build their skills of observation and clarity of language while at the same time allowing their individual voice and technique to develop. The course looks at a variety of styles and forms of poetry which will allow the participant to build a sound knowledge of some of the technical terms while utilising them in a practical and interesting way. The course includes elements relating to preparing and submitting poems for publication, reading poems and presenting them in a live setting, revising poetry and editing.

Poetry 2

This is a high-grade course and makes assumptions that the participant will already have a wide experience of poetic techniques, the features looked at on the course are looked at from an advanced point of view -- roughly equivalent of a third year University module. The Basically the course follows the following session structure. Each session consists of a number of parts.

Some items covered

Writing poetry that is engaging
Modern free verse
Lineation
Complexity in poetry
Poems from art and found objects
Editing

Qualifications required - People wishing to take this course do not require any previous qualifications, they do however need to be able to identify themselves as writers with some experience. Those who have previously taken the Poetry Kit Poetry 1 course will find this a natural development, although this is not essential.

Fee - The course fee is £95 (UK£)

Mentoring Programme

Duration – 10 units

Mentoring Programme – One to one mentoring. In each session there are challenges, exercises and projects to complete. Ideas are discussed and foundations for poems developed with assistance and feedback, working through drafts to completed poems. This is a mentoring experience that will work with strengths and identify weaknesses in writing style, all content chosen to meet the needs of the poet. The mentoring is over a period of 10 sessions, at the end of that you should have portfolio of poems which are complete and further poems in draft which are being worked through. The purpose of this course is to offer individual mentoring and the time taken will depend on the speed of the student.

Mentoring can be taken up to five times.

Fee – The course fee is £110 (UK£)

This is actually less a taught course and more of a shared experience of poetry. The sessions work in one of two ways; the first is a challenge to write a poem in a particular way, or on a particular subject or with particular tools. The poet will produce a draft and then we will look at ways to develop, improve or change the poem. The poem is developed in this way until it is complete. (copyright of the poems produced on any of our courses remains with the poet)

We also consider any bad habits in the poet's writing, we all have these, particularly if you write a lot or have been writing for a long time, and show you how these can be eliminated. The second type of poem will be any that the poet wants to write and feel they need some advice about; in this case we will work in the same way with that.

We also have exercises on different poetic elements; some of these will be very easy, while others might bring on a bit of head scratching.

Some poets join the mentoring programme because they want to work on a collection or produce a new sequence of work. Whatever is needed we will be able to assist the poet.

Mentoring is very fluid and although there are many prepared sessions, we may use all or none of them, this is mentoring for a poet and the poet is the most important person in this process.

Critique

The Critique Service - Critique of up to 10 poems (or a total of 450 lines of poetry)

This service covers critiques of 10 individual poems (totalling no more than 450 lines). Longer poems, even a single poem, may be submitted up to a total of 450 lines of poetry.

For critique we ask the poet to send the poems two at a time. When the first two poems are received they are read and Jim Bennett might write and ask a question or two. After a period of consideration, he will write a critique and may offer help and advice if he feels it necessary. Critiques are usually returned within three days, not counting weekends. After you have received the critique for the first two poems you can then send the next two, and so on up to a total of 10 individual poems. You are invited to comment or question any of the points in the critique and Jim will respond to this as appropriate.

Fee - The fee for this service is £60 (UK£)

The Poetry of Bob Dylan

Duration - 8 session course

The Course - This 8 session course takes a look at Bob Dylan's writing. We will look at examples of his writing from periods throughout his career and examining how he uses words to shape the environment of the song, we will also be looking at his influences and the influence he had on others. We will look at his body of work and to try to understand the position he occupies in popular music.

Fee £80 (UK£)

TESTIMONIALS

WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE TO SAY

FOUNDATION

I had a great time completing the beginner's course. I felt it was personally tailored to suit me, the assignments were interesting and enjoyable, and Jim's comments were constructive and generous. I hope to take another course after having got some more writing under my belt!

HB - ENGLAND (Foundation)

This course has been excellent and achieved what was stated on the website in terms of seeing poetry differently and gaining confidence in writing.

I really appreciated the prompt one to one feedback and helpful advice.

JW - ENGLAND (Foundation)

I thoroughly enjoyed this course – Jim Bennett is not only a poet of the highest calibre, but a most inspirational tutor who is exceedingly generous with both his time and knowledge. I would recommend the Poetry Kit without hesitation to anyone wishing to develop their poetic skills.

SF - ENGLAND (Foundation)

I really enjoyed the course: it opened me up to the possibilities of poetry and made me take my own writing more seriously. The feedback throughout the course was specific, helpful and thought provoking. I'm going to sign up to another of your courses now and look forward to continuing to work with you.

EB - ENGLAND (Foundation)

PART ONE POETRY COURSE

I took Level One and found that my perception of poetry was challenged and reinvigorated. I found Jim Bennett to be an excellent tutor, encouraging and honest in his critique of my work. I will definitely sign up for at least Level Two, building upon the confidence and inspiration this course has given me. The Poetry Kit also offers great value for money. I highly recommend it.

A McC - N. IRELAND (Part 1)

I signed up for a poetry kit course as I was struggling to move forward with my work. Within 6 months of completing the course I had poems published in two of my three target publications. The third came soon after. I found Jim to be a good teacher and felt very much as if he had connected with me for the duration of our course. I am certain I would have given up on poetry without Jim's support and teachings.

MS - ENGLAND (Part 1)

I have just completed Poetry Part 1, an online course which I have thoroughly enjoyed. The content and instruction has been of high quality, engaging, interesting, constructive and encouraging. The responses received have always been extremely prompt and I can highly recommend this course to anyone who should be considering it. I've enjoyed it so much that I have now enrolled on part 2!

TE - ENGLAND (Part 1)

The course was extremely useful and incredibly good value - the one-to-one feedback meant that I feel my writing has progressed a great deal.

AM - ENGLAND (Part 1)

PART TWO POETRY COURSE

I have found that following the course and doing my best to fulfil the assignments set has sharpened my awareness of the 'making' aspects of poetry. In particular it has made me more conscious of lazy writing, line-breaks, overly 'poetic' language.

The course has been useful in encouraging me to break away from my current writing interests and forcing me to think harder about what works in a poem. Having deadlines and specific tasks, while it may not have produced any very memorable poems, has kept my writing muscles (in the brain as well as the hands!) flexed and been a productive experience.

I would like to thank you for an interesting, original and most stimulating course which has consistently engaged my creative and critical faculties and is excellent value for money.

AC - SCOTLAND (Part 2)

I was able to do Jim's poetry course on and off while working and looking after my son. I always looked forward to the next assignment and felt that by the end of the course, I had developed a rapport with the man. Highly recommended.

RI - SPAIN (Part 2)

MENTORING

The personal feedback I received was excellent and I still value everything we covered a few years on.

NW - SPAIN (Mentoring)

Taking the intermediate level course, and then the mentoring sessions put me on the right track to create better poems. The exercises and feedback from Jim were valuable, to make me see objectively where my repeated failings were, and how to recognise lazy habits. The mentoring was particularly helpful as it was personalised and supportive.

GR - UK (Mentoring)

Learning and studying Poetry, through Level One, Level Two, and two full sets of Mentoring sessions, with Jim Bennett of the POETRY kit, has been the most enriching learning experience of my life. Jim is attentive, sensitive, supportive, a great teacher and a marvellous poet. The courses are extraordinary value for money.

JF - IRELAND (Part 1-2 and Mentoring)

I undertook the mentoring one to one course with Jim Bennett at a very vulnerable time in my writing career. I was lost and unsure what my writing voice was; what it looked like and/ or sounded like. With Jim's gentle and patient but very honest and knowledgeable guidance, I am now in an empowering position of not only knowing my voice but being confident enough to share my voice with others, far and wide, no matter what. I loved working with Jim because his writing assignments pushed me out of my comfort zone in measured steps. His feedback and discussions were just what I needed to look at my writing critically and compassionately. It's a shame our time of working together had to come to an end.

SM - ENGLAND (Mentoring)

I learned a lot from the PK courses. The material I produced was treated with due acknowledgement of the work I put in to it. I feel more confident in being able to produce work of a reasonably high standard. I enjoyed the courses very much.

DA - ENGLAND (Part 1 -2 and Mentoring)

'I have just completed a course of one to one mentoring with Jim Bennett. His feedback is always prompt, helpful and constructive and has helped me develop my skills in writing poetry. The reading material provided has been interesting and stimulating'.

JW - ENGLAND (Foundation, Part 1 and Mentoring)

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Questions you might have.

How do I know if I am a poet?

How do the courses work?

Do I need to purchase any books or other material?

Do I have to have set times each week?

How long does it take to complete the course?

Will there be feedback?

What sort of work will I be asked to do?

What previous experience do I need?

How do I know if I am a poet?

Everyone has the potential to be a poet. It is a bit like learning to drive, some will learn and enjoy a quiet trip out at the weekends, others will find the cut and thrust of city driving to be a challenge, and some will be gifted and go on to the racetrack. Well it isn't like that really but you get the point, there is something in writing poetry for everyone. Even if after giving it a fair test you find that writing is not for you, then you will develop a deeper appreciation of reading poetry and what it has to offer.

How do the courses work?

Our courses are a bit like correspondence courses conducted by email with some downloaded information from time to time. So you will need access to an email provider and occasionally the internet, although if there are problems with that then other arrangements can be made. Nearly all of the work we do is via emails.

Do I need to purchase any books or other material?

No. All course materials are part of the set work and assignments for the course and will be sent to you via email by the course tutor. A recommended list of poems to read will be provided, but these are available on the internet and only for background and personal study, not intended as part of the course.

Do I have to have set times each week?

No. Times are flexible. You will get an email with information and assignments or feedback, and you can respond to this in your own time.

How long does it take to complete the course?

Many of our courses are ten sessions, the length a session can vary, but generally an overall ten session course can be completed in 12 weeks but we allow up to five months to take personal circumstances into account, and the speed of response from the student.

Will there be feedback?

Yes, the course learning outcomes are achieved through reliable feedback. All coursework, poems and other assignments receive comment which will be useful. Students are also encouraged to ask any questions and clarify any points.

What sort of work will I be asked to do?

Assignments do vary, but there will be some assignments that call for a reflection, which is a short piece of writing giving your opinion about something, you may be asked to read some poems or other articles provided, and you will certainly be asked to write poems.

What previous experience do I need?

You do not need any formal qualifications. An interest in poetry and writing poetry is important, but even more important is the ability to approach a subject with an open mind and be willing to look at things in new ways.

COURSE ENROLMENT

There are several steps in registering for a course.

First please select the course you require and pay the fee through PayPal.

STEP 1 - Pay the Course Fee to info@poetrykit.org at PayPal

Poetry Foundation Course	Fee £65
Poetry Part 1 Course	Fee £80
Poetry Part 2 Course	Fee £95
Mentoring	Fee £110
Poetry Critique Service	Fee £60
The Poetry of Bob Dylan	Fee £80

If you have difficulty with this there are live links to payment options at our enrolment page online at <https://www.poetrykit.org/pkcourse/pkcourse1.htm>

When the fee has been paid please complete the enrolment form on the next page.

STEP 2 - Complete the Enrolment Form

ENROLMENT FORM

Please copy this form plus your answers into the body of an email and send it to info@poetrykit.org

First please tell us;

Have you paid the appropriate fee through PayPal YES/NO

Which course do you want to take?
would you like?

What start date

For all courses please answer these questions;

1. Full name postal address, phone number. (These are for our records only and will not be used for any other commercial purpose).

For poetry courses please answer these questions.

2 Name your three favourite poets.

3 What are the last three poetry books that you have read?

4 If you normally read poetry on line, which sites do you prefer?

5 Give a broad view of your writing career to date.

6 List (if any) published work.

7 What is your age and educational background?

8 What previous courses have you taken?

9 What are you hoping to get from this course?

10 How did you find out about this course?

When you have done this please write a short bio giving some details about yourself.

STEP 3

You should receive confirmation from our office within 24 hours (excluding weekends). If you do not hear from us please check you email bulk and spam folders, and if our mail is going there please let us know. If not, and you have not heard from us, please get in touch. Please give your payment details so that we can track your registration.

