



Duke University Talent Identification Program

GHOST RANCH,
NEW MEXICO

Grades 9–12

June 15–29, 2009

\$3400*

Airport:
Albuquerque
International
Sunport (ABQ)

*Airfare and books
are not included



2009 FIELD STUDY PROGRAM

A Writer's Art: Creative Writing

If good writing requires inspiration, concentration and solitude, then Ghost Ranch, New Mexico is a writer's paradise. Located in a high desert landscape, the ranch features canyons, red rock mesas and an ever-changing variety of colorful sunsets. Artist Georgia O'Keeffe once said of Ghost Ranch, "All the earth colors of the painter's palette are out there in the many miles of badlands." This field study offers students the opportunity to enjoy two weeks of creative discovery in this serene, beautiful location.

Notable Attractions and Excursions

- Develop a creative writing style, learn professional writing techniques and experience the process of writing.
- Participate in supportive critique workshops with peers and instructors and independently write and revise work in response to constructive feedback.
- Develop talents through writing exercises, discussions and draft sharing.
- Enjoy outdoor adventures: visit the Bradbury Science Museum and the Art Center at Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos, as well as the National Folk Art Museum.
- Visit with local artists and writers.
- View spectacular sunsets during evening journal sessions.
- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Taos Pueblo, hike to natural wonders such as Chimney Rock and Box Canyon, and experience the local history and culture of New Mexico.

Apply:

www.duke.tip.edu/fsi

A Writer's Art: Creative Writing

The Site

Ghost Ranch encompasses 21,000 acres in a remote desert region between Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico. Once the longtime home of painter Georgia O'Keeffe and the subject of many of her famous works, the site now hosts a variety of educational and arts programs. In addition to a dining hall, swimming pool, library and meeting rooms, the ranch has two museums and miles of hiking trails.

The Course

Nurtured by the solitude and beauty of Ghost Ranch, students will have the time and freedom to develop their creative writing style, learn professional writing techniques and experience the process of writing. In this retreat setting, students will be challenged to leave the distractions of the day-to-day world behind and immerse themselves in the imaginative craft of writing. In addition, students will participate in outdoor adventures, take field trips to regional cultural sites and visit with local artists and writers. The course framework is based on daily readings of works by contemporary authors as well as on the students' own prose and poetry. Through guided writing exercises, students will acquire strategies for developing characters, setting and plot; hone descriptive techniques; and learn to read with a writer's eye. Students will participate in supportive critique workshops with their peers and instructors, writing independently and revising their work in response to constructive feedback. As the class will use journals and write in a variety of environments, the use of laptops is limited.



“My heart might burst with longing for these two weeks if I thought about them too much”

– 2008 participant

A Writer's Art: Creative Writing

A Typical Day

A typical day may begin with an early breakfast followed by an hour of independent journal writing. Students will usually spend mornings enjoying the outdoors and participating in activities such as writing exercises, discussions and draft sharing. Afternoons provide plenty of time for contemplation, recreation and often a field trip or hike. Evenings at Ghost Ranch may include a class session or social activity such as music around the fire, storytelling, artistic endeavors, dinner in town or a movie. Weekends will permit more time for students to complete revisions and polish their writings for critique workshops and the final authors' reading. Students will participate in numerous hikes over desert terrain in search of inspiration, so be sure to bring your hiking boots. Those who are eager to learn in a collaborative environment, write independently, listen carefully and contribute to creative decision-making are encouraged to apply.



Instructor Bio

Lauren Faulkenberry earned her MFA in fiction writing from Georgia College & State University. While her specialty is fiction, she also writes poetry and stage plays. Her work has appeared in *The Comstock Review*, *Thema*, *Lake Effect*, and *Hungry for Home*, among others, and she published a children's book, *What do Animals do on the Weekend?* in 2002. She is a winner of the 2007 Family Circle fiction award, and a finalist for the 2008 Novello Award. She taught composition and creative writing at Western Carolina University before moving to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to study Book Arts. She is originally from South Carolina and is currently at work on a novel and story collection.