**MEMOIR WRITING**

**Instructor**

Doug Paulsen

[Meet your Instructor](https://oklahomacontemporary.org/learn/studio-school/current-studio-school-instructors/doug-paulsen)

**Start Date | Rain Date**

Four-week class begins Thursday, September 29, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

In case of instructor illness or weather, the rain date is October 27.

**Location**

Main Building | Mary L. Clements Studio One | 11 NW 11th St., Oklahoma City, OK, 73102

**Open Studio Sessions**

Check availability on the [Student Portal](https://oklahomacontemporary.org/learn/studio-school/studio-school-student-portal)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Starting your memoir can be the most difficult part. How to begin diving into your entire life with a pen (or keypad)? In this class we will approach this, with many options and angles offered. Memoir comes from the French word memoire, the study of memory in a meandering way. While all students will be on the path, you will be free to walk into your own stories you feel led toward. A trust ensues.

In class we will write from prompts and topics, reading ones we choose. Outside assignments will be given as well. The writing will be without a picky editor, primarily getting the memories down as wild and free as they come pouring out. By the end of four weeks your will have segments of your memoir written and most likely will have a direction to continue. The benefits are many, maybe the best is an accepting grace and understanding of the life you have lived.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

* Week One: Introductions, Approaches and Methods to writing your Memoir. First Writings.
* Week Two: People, Places, and Things. Triggering memories with specifics.
* Week Three: Challenges and changes, beginnings and endings. Life lessons.
* Week Four: Narrowing the focus, memoir by category. Bracketing a life within a life. How to proceed.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

* Pen
* Paper

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

* Doug will have a list of “how to” books about memoir writing if students are interested
* Doug also recommends that you start reading a memoir of your choice. If you would like suggestions, he can provide some when you meet for class.