

WRITING 2211F: The Naked Writer (Fundamentals of Creative Writing)

Fall 2013

Section: 001

Time/Room: Tuesday, 1:30 – 4:30 in UCC-54B

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Course Description and Objectives

Students will explore fundamentals of creative writing by writing **creative nonfiction, poetry and fiction**. In classroom discussion and small workshops, students will examine their own work and that of others in an attempt to understand what makes a piece of prose or poetry come alive, trying always to apply what has been learned to improve their own writing.

The ability to communicate information, arguments and analyses accurately and reliably, orally and in writing to a range of audiences, is an objective of all the Writing Program courses.

This is not a lecture course. It is a discussion, reading and **workshop** course, and as a result students must be prepared to **participate** in the workshop process: peer evaluation, editing, drafting, discussion topics, etc. In a writing workshop, one learns to write for others besides oneself – to respect one’s readers and work toward their seamless reading. And clearly, as there are only 13 classes (and no final examination), attendance is mandatory. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Should you arrive late, it will be your responsibility to ensure that you are not marked absent by seeing me after class. **[See note regarding Writing Program policy for documenting absences and penalties for absences in Section 5 of this Course Outline.]**

Required Text (available in University Bookstore)

1. *Flash Fiction*, ed. by Thomas, Thomas & Hazuka [*\$20 est.*] (72 very short stories)
[to be read by **Week 9**]

Course Requirements

Creative Non-Fiction	35% <small>(Subtotals 20%; Memoir 15%)</small>	Week 4/5
Poetry	30% <small>(Poem 1-- 15%; Poem 2 -- 15%)</small>	Week 7/9
Fiction	35% <small>(Flash Fiction)</small>	Week 13
Total	100%	

Assignments/Assignment Format

Assignments must be typed, double-spaced and stapled. All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and instructor's name on the first page.

Submitting Assignments

- **NOTE:** All work submitted for grading or shared with other students in a workshop setting must be computer-printed for legibility. All writing must be backed up on CD, disk or memory stick (**including all drafts**), for submission if requested.
- All work submitted for this class must be developed from a draft approved by the instructor. If, for any reason, a draft of any creative work is deemed unacceptable (*originality, topic, language, genre, etc.*), it must be replaced by an acceptable draft, which will subsequently be developed into an acceptable finished work.
- **All assignments must be accompanied by a draft and Revision Notes.**
- Late assignments will be penalized 5% a day (including weekends) unless an extension has been negotiated at least 48 hours in advance of due date.
- Assignments more than 1 week late will receive no credit (unless mutually arranged in advance).

Attendance policies

Attendance is required to improve as a writer. If you miss more than 6 hours of class meetings your final grade will be penalized a full letter grade (an earned grade of 80% would be reported as 70%); if you miss more than 9 hours of class meetings, you will not be given a passing grade for the course.

This policy will only be waived for medical or compassionate reasons.

Note: a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of 'make-up class' in another course **will** count as non-attendance, and **will** attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at the University of Western Ontario **shall not require** a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict with that student's other scheduled class times. If you are asked or 'required' to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counsellor in your Dean's office. If you elect to miss a class in order to write such a test, that is **your** choice; your absence will not be excused.

See also: '**Medical Accommodation Policy**' below.

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

The University Senate requires the following statements, and Web site references, to appear on course outlines:

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/schloff.pdf>.

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy as above).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

Prerequisites

The University Senate requires the following statement to appear on course outlines:

“Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

The prerequisite for registration in this course is a) a final grade of 65 or more in one of Writing 2101, 2121, 2111, or 2131, or b) a final grade of 70 or more in Writing 1000F/G, or c) Special Permission of the Program.

Medical Accommodation Policy

For UWO Policy on Accommodation For Medical Illness, see:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

(downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading)

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical or other grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth 10% or more of their final grade** must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds cannot be granted by the instructor or the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication, and the Program requires students in these circumstances to follow the same procedure when seeking academic accommodation on non-medical (i.e. non-medical compassionate or other) grounds.

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth less than 10% of their final grade** must also apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Where in these circumstances the accommodation is being sought on **non-medical grounds**, students should consult in the first instance with their instructor, who may elect to make a decision on the request directly, or refer the student to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an ‘Attendance’ policy in the course). **All** medical documentation **must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student’s home Faculty.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwo.com/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Special Requests: Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing

Please refer to the “Information for All Students in a Writing Course” for more detailed information.

Briefly, remember that your instructor does not have the discretion to initiate, consider, or grant (or not) such requests; you must go directly to the Dean’s office of your home faculty.

Class Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting focus	Readings/Assignments (and other information)
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to course • Read and discuss Subtotals in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up textbook from bookstore • Subtotals Writing Assignment: Print and bring enough copies of your own version, based on class discussion and guidelines, to workshop next class (WEEK 2) • DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON WORKSHOP COPIES
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Workshopping • Subtotals Workshop (Part 1) (2/3 of stories) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final draft of Subtotals assignment due in 2 weeks (WEEK 4) • Grade value: 20% • Download/Print from SAKAI: “Learning to Chill Out” by Frank McCourt (Bring to class WEEK 3)
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subtotals Workshop (Part 2) (1/3 of stories) • Read and discuss in class “Learning to Chill Out” by Frank McCourt (see WEEK 2 assignment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-page Memoir piece (Mccourt model), due in 2 weeks (WEEK 5) • Grade value 15% • Print/Download Poetry from SAKAI; bring to class WEEK 4
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poetry Introduction • Read/discuss Poetry downloaded from SAKAI (see WEEK 3 assignment) • Brainstorm for 1st poem, using given template 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subtotals (final draft, with Revision Notes) due today. • Poem #1 (10-20 lines): Print and bring enough copies to workshop next class (WEEK 5) • DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON WORKSHOP COPIES
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poem #1 Workshop (Part 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memoir piece due today
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poem #1 Workshop (Part 2) • Brainstorm for 2nd poem, using given template 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poem #2 (10-20 lines): Print and bring enough copies to workshop next class (WEEK 7) DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON WORKSHOP COPIES • Final draft of Poem 1 (with draft & Revision Notes) due next class (WEEK 7)

Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poem #2 Workshop (Part 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poem #1 (with draft and Revision Notes) due today (grade value 15%)
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poem #2 Workshop (Part 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Assignment for WEEK 9: Complete reading of all stories from Flash Fiction; select 5 stories you admired and be prepared to discuss your responses in class next week.
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiction Introduction Discussion and sharing of responses assigned last class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poem #2 (with draft and Revision Notes) due today (grade value 15%) Writing Assignment for next class (WEEK 10): Write a “flash fiction” modelled on a story you admired. Print and bring sufficient copies to workshop with the class. DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON WORKSHOP COPIES
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flash Fiction Workshop (Part 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final copy of Flash Fiction due last class (WEEK 13); grade value: 35%
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flash Fiction Workshop (Part 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final copy of Flash Fiction due last class (WEEK 13); grade value: 35%
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flash Fiction Workshop (Part 3) 	
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft of Flash Fiction due, with draft and Revision Notes 	