

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**Advanced Fiction Workshop****English 4570F (001)**

Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Nino Ricci  
University College 2414  
[nricci5@uwo.ca](mailto:nricci5@uwo.ca)  
(519) 661-2111 ext. 85790

**Course Location:** University College 4401

**Course Date/Time:** Tues 2:30-5:30 PM

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 from English 2200-2250, English 3200-3210, Theatre Studies 3205F/G, or permission of the Department.

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.

Course Description

A workshop course directed at students interested in writing a novel or a collection of linked short stories, with a focus on the crucial early stages of the writing process. Students will be expected to complete 25 to 40 pages of an early draft of a novel or story collection over the course of the term.

**Objectives:**

By the end of the course, successful students will have:

- enhanced their understanding of the creative process and of the theory and practice of novel-writing;
- improved their ability to analyse and edit both their own work and that of others;
- learned about the practical aspects of getting their work published and of pursuing writing as a profession.

Course Materials**Required Texts:**

Gardner, John. *The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers*. Vintage, 2010 (1983).

King, Stephen. *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*. Scribner, 2010 (2000).

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird*. Anchor, 2007 (1994).

Wood, James. *How Fiction Works*. Picador, 2009.

**Secondary/Recommended Texts:**

Dillard, Annie. *The Writing Life*. Harper Perennial, 2013 (1989).

Gardner, John. *On Becoming a Novelist*. W. W. Norton, 1999 (1983).

Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones*. Shambhala Publications, 2016 (1986).

Lodge, David. *The Art of Fiction*. Vintage, 2011.

### Methods of Evaluation

This is a workshop course. Students will be expected to submit work on a regular basis to be discussed by the class and to produce 25 to 40 pages of an early draft of a novel or story collection by the end of term. Students will also be expected to comment on other students' submissions and to provide written commentaries on them.

A workshop schedule will be established early in the semester. In addition, the instructor will meet individually with students to establish a plan of work tailored to each student's project.

Final grades will be based on the following:

- Workshop submissions: 50%
  - Students will submit a portfolio at the end of the semester of 25 to 40 pages (6,500 to 10,000 words) containing all work submitted during the semester and any additional work completed but not yet submitted.
  - At the instructor's discretion, revisions of work that has been workshopped in class may be included in your total page count.
- Oral presentation: 10%
  - Each student will be responsible for a 10-minute in-class presentation on a topic drawn from one of the required course texts.
- Class participation: 20%
- Written commentaries (150-250 words for each submission): 20%
  - Bring two copies of each commentary to class, one to be given to the instructor and one to the student whose piece it comments on.

There is NO final exam in this course.

For a creative writing workshop to function effectively, students **MUST ATTEND REGULARLY** and **MUST SUBMIT WORK ON DEADLINE**. Absences not supported with a doctor's note or other acceptable documentation will affect a student's participation mark and may result in a failure in the course if they amount to more than 15% of class time. Late submissions will be penalized or not accepted.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

### Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical 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 cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

### **Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage 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.

### **Plagiarism Checking:**

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

### Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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