

Department of English and Writing Studies

**WRITING 2213F-650 - LOL: HUMOUR WRITING**  
Fall 2018

Instructor: Mark Kearney



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**Office: Room 1426, University College**

**Office Hours: Tuesdays 1 pm to 3 pm or by appointment.**

**Text:** In lieu of a text, there will be a range of handouts and/or links to websites posted on the syllabus and the course OWL site for you to read.

**Recommended Texts:**

***Writing Humor: Creativity and the Comic Mind***, by Mary Ann Rishel, Wayne State University Press, 2002. (This can be found on Google Books if you type in the title and author)

**Course Requirements**

LOL: Humour Writing is designed to help you write for greater impact while introducing you to different aspects of the genre, using a blend of online lecture and workshop. You will have the opportunity to write something funny for most weeks, get feedback from me and fellow students, read and critique a variety of humorous stories and watch and critique humorous videos. You should also develop skills in the ability to communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably, orally and in writing to a range of audiences while appreciating and writing a range of humour styles for different audiences. Early in the course you will be assigned to small groups that may take turns leading online discussion as well as provide you with peers who can give you feedback on your draft assignments. You will examine your own work and that of others to better understand what makes us laugh and why.

**Assignments**

1.	Humour Analysis/List	15%	Due Sept. 28
2.	Personal Experience story	25%	Due Oct. 21
3.	Parody or Satire	25%	Due Nov. 9
4.	Online Discussion/Exercises/Workshopping	10%	Ongoing
5.	Final Assignment	25%	Due Nov. 25

## Attendance Policies

Obviously we do not meet formally as a “class” in a Distance Studies course. Therefore “attendance” and participation on the Discussion Board are intertwined. Distance Studies classes are generally self-paced, so you must attend class (defined as logging into our OWL section) and participate by introducing yourself, and posting questions and thoughts each week based on the given week’s set discussion topic) **at least two times weekly. This means at least two separate posts per week (a week is defined as running from Monday to Sunday), at least one of which must be a “new” post** rather than just a reply to someone else’s. Extended absences, defined as a failure to post into the OWL classroom for more than a week, must be coordinated with the instructor.

Postings on the Discussion Board must have the following characteristics:

Must contribute something meaningful to the Board;  
Must support your opinion with sufficient reasons or evidence;  
Must display good grammar and organization.

Postings should not:

Contain disrespectful or insulting language;  
Be excessively long or excessively short;  
Be unrelated to the week’s topic;  
Say things that do not contribute anything, e.g. “I agree with you” or “nice comment”.

- I will track your postings to the discussion Board, and it will be part of your 10% Online Discussion/ Exercises/Workshopping mark indicated above. **Failure to meet the minimum posting requirements may result in your final grade in the course being reduced by 10% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).**

Although this is an online course, you are expected to check into the OWL site on a regular basis, to read the material and your fellow students’ comments, participate in online discussions and to interact online with your fellow classmates by workshopping your drafts as much as online allows you. This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation. That advisor may then contact all of your instructors.

**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.