

**2211F: The Naked Writer**

Fall 2019

**Section:** # 001**Time/Room:** Weds 1:30 – 4:30pm, UC-1105**Instructor:** David Barrick**Email:** dbarric@uwo.ca**Office:** University College, Room 1425**Office hours:** Tuesday 12:30 – 2:30pm**Course Description and Objectives**

In this course, you will explore the fundamentals and challenges of creative writing via short fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. The goal of this practice-based class is two-fold: to acquaint you with a variety of creative writing being published today and to provide you with the tools to produce creative work of your own. You will share work and provide critical feedback on the work of your peers. Classes will be a mixture of in-class writing, discussion, and workshop.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have demonstrated the ability to

- identify the fundamental elements of creative writing (plot, character, dialogue, etc.);
- analyse and discuss published fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction;
- write in three genres;
- provide classmates with critical feedback;
- incorporate feedback into revisions.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Writing 2211F Custom Course Pack available at [The Book Store At Western](#)

*If you do not have one already, please purchase a blank writing journal for in-class exercises.*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Method of Evaluation	Grade Value	Due Date
Image Poem	15%	Week 3 – Final Draft
Polished Creative Nonfiction Essay or Fiction Story	20%	Week 7 – Final Draft
Narrative Preview Presentation	10%	Weeks 8-10
Narrative Assignment with Revision Notes	40%	Week 11 – Rough Draft Due Last class – Final Draft Due
Reading Responses/Discussion Leader Assignment	15%	Ongoing
	100%	

**ASSIGNMENT FORMAT**

All assignments must be word-processed in 12-point font and given a title. Your name, your student number, the course code, and my name must appear in the top righthand corner. Please include page numbers for multipage assignments; you must submit work in class as a hard copy and on the OWL course site as a PDF, rtf, or Doc file.

### **Submitting Assignments**

Late assignments will receive a penalty of 5 marks per day. To qualify for an extension, you must have a valid reason and contact your instructor prior to the deadline. Please see the medical accommodation policy below.

If necessary, please submit assignments to the English and Writing Studies Drop Box across from University College room 2431, **making sure you include your name, your instructor's name, the course name, and your section number on the first page.** Do not fax or e-mail assignments, and do not slide them under office doors. Keep copies (electronic, paper, or both) of all assignments submitted.

### **Email and OWL website**

I respond to e-mails within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me in 48 hours, please resend your message. I do not check e-mail on the weekend.

All students must have an active Western e-mail account and regular access to the OWL course website. This website is the primary way that I communicate with you outside of class. You will also be required to post brief weekly response papers to the online OWL Forum before class (see below).

### **Reading Responses**

Between Weeks 2-7, for each set of course pack readings, you will write a 400-500-word response paper and upload it to the Forum section of OWL before the class meeting (e.g. the response paper for Week 2 is due by 10:00am before class on September 18<sup>th</sup>). For one of these weeks, you will sign up to help initiate/lead the class discussion. These course elements are due on the assigned date *before* class and cannot be made up.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. Here is the Writing Studies attendance policy in this class:

- You may miss up to three hours (the equivalent of one week of class) of class meetings during the term without explanation. That means that the first three class hours you miss will be recorded as absences but *excused provided you don't miss any more*.
- However, if you miss a total of four to nine class hours (the equivalent of up to three full weeks of class), your final grade will be reduced by 10% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).
- If you miss a total of more than nine hours of class meetings (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class meetings) your final grade will be reduced by 15% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 68).

This policy will only be waived for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have non-medical evidence that would support waiving an absence of one class meeting, provide it to your instructor within one week of that absence. In the case of a medical reason, please see the Medical Accommodation Policy set out below and in the document 'Information for Students in a Writing Studies Course' on this website, and either initiate a Self-Reported Absence or apply in person to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of your home Faculty. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss it in person with the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of your home Faculty. Your advisor there 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 Western 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.

Attendance also extends to tardiness. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be penalized an hour of attendance. Please make every effort to be on time as late entry can disrupt the flow of discussion in our class. Early departures from class, which have not been previously arranged with the instructor, will also be counted as an absence. If you leave during the break, you will be docked an hour of attendance.

### **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/scholoff.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 2101F/G, 2125F/G (or the former 2121F/G), 2111F/G, or 2131F/G, or b) a final grade of 70 or more in one of Writing 1000F/G, 1030F/G, 1031F/G, or c) Special Permission of the department.*

### **Medical Accommodation Policy:**

Western has a comprehensive policy covering requests for accommodation by students who are not registered with Student Accessibility Services. All students should review this policy here, under the heading ‘Accommodation for Illness – Undergraduate Students’, noting the procedures, restrictions, and notice requirements:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12)

In Writing courses, students covered by this policy who are seeking academic consideration must proceed as follows.

**Writing Studies' Basic Policy:** students seeking academic consideration **on medical or any other grounds** for any missed tests/exams, class attendance/participation components, or late or missed assignments must either initiate a Self-Reported Absence (**for a grade component worth up to 30% of their final grade, but excluding final exams scheduled during the exam period**) or apply in person to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of their home Faculty and provide a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) or other supporting documentation as required in accordance with official Western policy (linked above).

Students seeking academic consideration **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either:

- i. A Self-Reported Absence, or
- ii. Academic consideration supported by the Academic Counselling Office.

**Exception:** in Writing Studies courses, a student seeking academic accommodation **on non-medical grounds** for any missed in-class tests/exams, class attendance/participation components, or late or missed assignments **worth less than 10% of a final grade** *may* first consult directly with her or his instructor, who will – in his or her discretion – elect either to make a decision on the request directly or instruct the student to follow the procedures set out in **Writing Studies' Basic Policy**.

**Please note** that individual instructors will **not under any circumstances** accept or read medical documentation directly offered by a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds or for related 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 or Undergraduate office of a student's home Faculty.

**Students who are or who feel they should be covered under Student Accessibility Services** should review Western policy here:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)

**Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:** (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) 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 Studies Course" for more detailed information. Briefly, remember that instructors do 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.

## WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE (Subject to minor changes)

UNITS	UNIT FOCUS	READINGS
<b>Week 1</b> September 11, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion: Introductions and Why Write?</li> <li>• Assignment: Image Poem</li> <li>• Writing Exercise #1: Images</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Course Pack</u>: “The Impact of Images” and “Using the Sound of Language” by Stephen Minot</li> <li>• Selected poems from contemporary Canadian poets (in-class handout).</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b> September 18, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop: Image Poem (10% penalty for no draft)</li> <li>• Discussion: Craft of Poetry</li> <li>• Writing Exercise #2: Metaphor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Online Readings</u>: Workshop Etiquette, Reading Image Poems</li> <li>• <u>Course Pack</u>: “Verse That Is Free” and “Diction, Tone, and Voice” by Mary Oliver; “Monkey Ranch” by Julie Bruck; excerpts from <i>The Knife Thrower’s Partner</i> by Douglas Burnet Smith; “Oranges” by Gary Soto</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b> September 25, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Image Poem Due (15%)</b></li> <li>• Assignment: Creative Nonfiction</li> <li>• Discussion: Creative Nonfiction (Compare &amp; Contrast)</li> <li>• Writing Exercise #3: Bad Behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Course Pack</u>: Excerpt from <i>The Pharmacist’s Mate</i> by Amy Fusselman; “Writing Short Creative Nonfiction” by David Starkey (p. 41-64) from <i>Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief</i> (essays: “Liferower” by Rebecca McClanahan and “Joyas Voladoras” by Brian Doyle)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b> October 2, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop: Creative Nonfiction (10% penalty for no draft)</li> <li>• Discussion: “Simple Recipes”</li> <li>• Writing Exercise #4: Character Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Course Pack</u>: “Simple Recipes” by Madeleine Thien; an anthology of creative non-fiction essays (p. 65-76)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b> October 9, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion: Narrative Explorations &amp; “Hills Like White Elephants”</li> <li>• Writing Exercise #5: Brainstorming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Course Pack</u>: “Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway, “Introduction,” <i>Fiction: A Longman Pocket Anthology</i>, Edited by R.S. Gwynn, “Mermaid in the Jar” by Sheila Heti</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b> October 16, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop: Short Story (10% penalty for no draft)</li> <li>• Discussion: “That Crafty Feeling,” “The Lottery”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Course Pack</u>: “That Crafty Feeling” by Zadie Smith; “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b> October 23, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Polished Short Story or Creative Nonfiction (20%)</b></li> <li>• Discussion: Building Tension in fiction, “What I Saw from Where I Stood”</li> <li>• Writing Exercise #6: Conflict</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Course Pack</u>: “Tension” by Heather Sellers (<i>The Practice of Creative Writing</i>), “What I saw from where I stood” by Marisa Silver; “Types of Prose in Fiction” and “Choosing a Point of View” by Jack Hodgins,</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b> October 30, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class Presentations: <b>Narrative Preview</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Online Readings</u>: Explore the online journal <i>Joyland: A Hub for Short Fiction</i></li> </ul>
<b>November 4-8, 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>READING WEEK</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>No assigned readings</u></li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b> November 13, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class Presentations: <b>Narrative Preview</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Online Readings</u>: Explore the online journal <i>Drunken Boat</i></li> </ul>
<b>Week 10</b> November 20, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class Presentations: <b>Narrative Preview</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Online Readings</u>: Explore the online journal <i>Electric Literature</i></li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 11</b> November 27, 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop: Final Narrative (10% penalty for no draft)</li> <li>• Revision Strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Course Pack</u>: “Revision” by Heather Sellers (<i>The Practice of Creative Writing</i>)</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 12</b> December 4, 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final Narrative Assignment and Revision notes Due (40%)</b></li> <li>• Discussion: Self-assessment</li> <li>• Writing Resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Online Readings</u>: Writing Resources, What Editors Want</li> <li>• <u>Course Pack</u>: “Publication” by Heather Sellers from <i>The Practice of Creative Writing</i></li> </ul>