

WRITING 1000G
THE WRITERS' STUDIO
Winter 2019

Section: 002

Time: Thursday 9:30-12:30

Location: UC 1220

Professor: Dr. Aaron Schneider

Email: aschnei4@uwo.ca or OWL email

Office: UC 2431

Office Hours: Wed 10:30-11:30 and Thurs 12:30-1:30

DESCRIPTION

Students are introduced to the creative process of writing through in-class exercises, peer workshop, analysis of creative texts, journaling, essay writing, and a review of grammar, mechanics, and composition. Students learn strategies for idea generation in a variety of genres (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, screenwriting), composing a first draft, approaching revision, and effective editing and proofreading techniques.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. identify the fundamental elements of creative and essay writing;
2. generate ideas in a variety of genres: poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, drama/screenwriting, and essay writing;
3. analyze and respond critically to published writing and the work of their peers;
4. identify and correct errors in composition, grammar, and mechanics; and
5. incorporate feedback into revisions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft 4th Edition Penguin Academics Series by Janet Burroway, 2014 (available at The Bookstore at Western)
2. The Canadian Writer's Handbook: Essentials Edition, Oxford University Press, 2012 (available at The Bookstore at Western)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Method of Evaluation	Grade Value	Deadline
Mid-term Portfolio	30%	Week 3, 5 and 6 (Jan 24, and Feb 7 and 14)
Narrative Assignment Proposal & Presentation	15%	Weeks 8 to 10 (Mar 8, 15, and 22)
Narrative Assignment (Final Draft with Revision Notes)	35%	Week 12 (April 5)
Exam	20%	TBA
Total	100%	

EXAM

The exam will test the skills that you have developed over the course of the semester in terms of your writing ability (purpose, coherence, cohesion, style, and grammar) and your understanding of the fundamental elements of creative writing as discussed in class and in course readings.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

In this course you will be required to submit the final version of each of your assignments electronically, through OWL to turnitin.com and provide your instructor with a hard copy in class the day the assignment is due.

Late assignments will receive a penalty of 5% 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 essays to the Department of English and Writing Studies drop box directly across the hall from my office, making sure you include your instructor's name and your section number. However, do not

- fax assignments
- e-mail assignments

Keep copies (electronic, paper, or both) of all assignments submitted.

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 good reasons for waiving an absence of one class meeting, discuss these with your instructor within one week of that absence. 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. See also: '**Medical Accommodation Policy**' below.

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.

EMAIL POLICY

I respond to email within two working days. You can email me via Western mail or OWL. I do not respond to email on the weekend.

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>).”

Note: In this course you will be required to submit an electronic copy of the final version of each of your essays to turnitin.com through OWL.

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.”

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION POLICY

For UWO Policy on Accommodation For Medical Illness, see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_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 Writing Studies, and

Writing Studies 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/uwocom/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

Week 1 (January 10):

Meeting Focus:

- Introduction to the course
- Images and writing through the senses

Readings: Pick up textbooks from the bookstore

Week 2 (January 17):

Meeting Focus:

- Image Poem Workshop
- Giving and Receiving Feedback
- Grammar: Parts of Speech etc.

Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: “Image,” p. 15-27 and “Poetry,” p. 297-327
- *Imaginative Writing* “American History looks for light—a prayer for the survival of Barack Obama,” p. 39, “Snow Day,” p. 41 and “Facing It,” p. 42
- *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*, “Paragraphs,” p. 16-27
- OWL Handouts: Parts of Speech, Subject and Verbs, Workshop Etiquette, Reading Image Poems

Week 3 (January 24):

*****Image Poem Due*****

Meeting Focus:

- Setting Workshop
- Grammar: Fragments

Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: “Setting,” p. 135-165 (pay particular attention to “The Werewolf”)
- *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*: “Fragments,” p. 49
- OWL Handouts: Fragments
- Bring a photograph with people in it to Week 4 (can be on your phone, computer, tablet)

Week 4 (January 31):

Meeting Focus:

- Discuss “A Plague of Tics”
- In class writing exercise: The Photograph
- Grammar: Run-on Sentences

Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: “Creative Nonfiction,” p. 225-255
- *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*: “Comma Splices” and “Run-ons,” p. 49-50
- OWL Handouts: Run-on Sentences, “A Plague of Tics” by David Sedaris (audio), Recommended Readings (Links)

- Bring a photograph with people in it (can be on your phone, computer, tablet)

Week 5 (February 7):
*****Flash Fiction Due*****

Meeting Focus:

- In-class Dialogue Exercise

Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: "Voice," p. 47-61, "Drama," p. 328-367
- OWL Handouts: Point of View (PDF), "The Neighbour" by Deepha Shankaran and "Reunion" by John Cheever

Week 6 (February 14):
****Analysis Due****

Meeting Focus:

- Sign up for proposal presentations
- Listen in class & discuss: "The Man in the Well" by Ira Sher (from *This American Life*)
- Discuss: "Snap" by Emi Benn
- Mechanics: *Commas*

Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: "Story," p. 166-175, "Character," p. 94-109
- *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: "The Comma." p. 150-158
- Online Readings: Dialogue (PDF) and "Snap" by Emi Benn

****Reading Break****

Week 7 (February 28):

Meeting Focus:

- Discuss films: "Grandma" and "Stop"
- In-class Writing Exercise: Fear

Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: "Fiction," p. 259-294"
- Online Short Films: "Grandma" and "Stop"

Week 8 (March 7):

Meeting Focus:

- **Narrative Presentations**
- In-class writing exercise

Readings:

- Online Readings: "Kirsty 22" by Naben Ruthnum and "Road Pizza" by Melissa Kuipers

Week 9 (March 14):

Meeting Focus:

- **Narrative Presentations**
- Discuss: "Difficult People"

Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: "Developing a Draft to Research," p. 195-202
- Online Readings: "Difficult People" by Catriona Wright (link) and "Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid

Week 10 (March 21):

Meeting Focus:

- **Narrative Presentations**
- Mechanics: Apostrophes, Semicolons, Colons, Dashes, Parentheses

Readings:

- *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: "The Essentials of Punctuation," p. 158-179

Week 11 (March 28):

Meeting Focus:

- Narrative Draft Workshop (small groups)
- One-on-one meetings with professor

Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: "Revision," p. 203-206 and "Editing," p. 207-208
- *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: "Revising, Editing, and Proofreading," p. 14-16

Week 12 (April 4):

****Narrative Assignment Due****

Meeting Focus:

- Writing Resources
- Exam Review

Readings:

- Online Reading: "A Guide to Publishing your Work" and "Where to Submit"