Western Arts&Humanities

Department of English and Writing Studies

WRITING 1000G: THE WRITERS' STUDIO – Winter 2019

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

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, 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
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 (image poem, setting description, analysis)	30%	Week 5
Narrative Assignment Proposal	15%	Weeks 7 to 9
Narrative Assignment (Final Draft with Revision Notes)	35%	Week 12
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 weekly units and in course readings.

PEER WORKSHOP & DISCUSSION

Peer workshops make up a large part of this course. Students who do not particulate in each workshop and or who fail to submit drafts will receive a 5% deduction on their assignment for

that workshop. For example, if students don't participate in <u>both workshops</u> for the mid-term portfolio, they could lose up to 10% off their final grade for that assignment.

STUDENT E-MAIL RESPONSIBILITY

It is the student's responsibility to check both the course's OWL Messenger and their UWO Office 365 email Inbox **daily** for possible updates/information, and not rely solely on external email accounts, **as only the UWO accounts will be used**.

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.

When using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA, CMS, CSE, or APA standards for documentation, detailed in *The Canadian Writer's Handbook,* p. 244.

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 on 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.

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

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/pdf/academic_policies/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 2101, 2121, 2111, or 2131, or b) a final grade of 70 or more in Writing 1000F/G or Writing 1030F, or c) Special Permission of the department.

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 SCHEDULE

DATE	MEETING FOCUS	READINGS
UNIT 1 *Jan 7 2019*	Introduction to course Images and writing through the senses	Pick up textbooks from the bookstore
UNIT 2 *Jan 14 2019*	Image Poem Workshop Grammar: *Subject and Verb Identification Review*	Textbook Readings: *Imaginative Writing:* "Image," p. 15-27 and "Poetry," p. 297-327 and *The Canadian Writer's Handbook,* "Paragraphs," p. 16-27 OWL Handouts: Subject and Verbs, Workshop Etiquette, Reading Image Poems
UNIT 3 *Jan 21 2019*	Setting Workshop Giving and Receiving Feedback Grammar: *Fragments*	Textbook Readings: *Imaginative Writing:* "Setting," p. 135-165 and *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: "Fragments," p. 49 OWL Handouts: Fragments
UNIT 4 *Jan 29 2018*	Discussion: "A Plague of Tics" Grammar: *Run-on Sentences* Writing Exercise: The Photograph Prepare Mid-Term Portfolio for Unit 5	Textbook Readings: *Imaginative Writing:* "Creative Nonfiction," p. 225-255 and *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)
UNIT 5 *Feb 4 2019*	**Mid-term Portfolio Due (30%)** Dialogue Exercise	Textbook Readings: *Imaginative Writing:* "Voice," p. 47- 61, "Drama," p. 328-367 OWL Handouts: Point of View (PDF), "The Neighbour" by Deep Shankaran and "Reunion" by John Cheever
UNIT 6 *Feb 11 2019*	Story Analysis: "The Man in the Well" Students assigned proposal workshop submission dates Mechanics: *Commas*	Textbook Readings: *Imaginative Writing:* "Story," p. 166-175, "Character," p. 94-109, and *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: "The Comma." p. 150-158 Online Readings: "The Man in the Well" by Ira Sher (from *This American Life,* audio link*)* and "Snap" by Emi Benn, and "The Modern Intimate" by Carleigh Baker, Dialogue (PDF)
Feb 18-22	**READING WEEK**	**FEB 18 – 22**
UNIT 7 *Feb 25 2019*	**Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)** Short Film: "Grandma" Short Film: "Stop"	extbook Readings: *Imaginative Writing:* "Fiction," p. 259-294 Online Short Films: "Grandma" and "Stop"
UNIT 8 *March 4 2019*	**Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)**	Recommended Readings: "Kirsty, 22" by Naben Ruthnum and "Road Pizza" by Melissa Kuipers
UNIT 9 *March 11 2019*	**Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)**	Textbook Readings: *Imaginative Writing:* "Developing a Draft to Research," p. 195-202 Online Readings: "Difficult People" by Catronia (link) and "Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid (link)

UNIT10 *March 18 2019*	Mechanics: *Apostrophes, Semicolons, Colons, Dashes, Parentheses*	Textbook Readings: *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*, "The Essentials of Punctuation," p. 158-179
UNIT 11 *March 25 2019*	Narrative Draft Workshop (small groups)	Textbook Readings: *Imaginative Writing*: "Revision," p. 203-206 and "Editing," p. 207-208 and *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: "Revising, Editing, and Proofreading," p. 14-16 Online Readings: ""Tips for Writing a Formal Critique" Post draft for workshop (penalty on final for no draft)
UNIT 12 *April 1 2019*	**Narrative Assignment Final Due (35%)** Writing Resources Submit final assignment on the last day of Unit 12	Exam Template Online Reading: "Advice for Sending Your Work to Literary Journals" by Kathryn Mockler