

WRITING 1000F 653 THE WRITERS' STUDIO – 2020-2021

SECTION: 653
TIME/ROOM/LOCATION: N/A
PROFESSOR: Dr. Tom Cull

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VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Due to COVID, consultation will be via the Owl Email. Students can expect an answer within 24 hours.

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 participate 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 both workshops for the mid-term portfolio, they could **lose up to 10% off** their final grade for that assignment.*

The use of racist or any language that works against the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will not be tolerated.

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

Assignments must be typed and double-spaced. 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/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.”

Accommodation Policy

Note: the official Western Accommodation Policy appears below. This is in effect, but may be modified temporarily by the university during the academic year as conditions change.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors by email within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student’s final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

ADDITIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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

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	Introduction to course Images and writing through the senses	Pick up textbooks from the bookstore
UNIT 2	Image Poem Workshop <u>Grammar</u> : <i>Subject and Verb Identification Review</i>	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : “Image,” p. 15-27 and “Poetry,” p. 297-327 and <i>The Canadian Writer’s Handbook</i> , “Paragraphs,” p. 16-27 <u>OWL Handouts</u> : Subject and Verbs, Workshop Etiquette, Reading Image Poems
UNIT 3	Setting Workshop Giving and Receiving Feedback <u>Grammar</u> : <i>Fragments</i>	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : “Setting,” p. 135-165 and <i>The Canadian Writer’s Handbook</i> : “Fragments,” p. 49 <u>OWL Handouts</u> : Fragments
UNIT 4	Discussion: “A Plague of Tics” <u>Grammar</u> : <i>Run-on Sentences</i> Writing Exercise: The Photograph Prepare Mid-Term Portfolio for Unit 5	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : “Creative Nonfiction,” p. 225-255 and <i>The Canadian Writer’s Handbook</i> : “Comma Splices” and “Run-ons,” p. 49-50 <u>OWL Handouts</u> : Run-on Sentences, “A Plague of Tics” by David Sedaris (audio)
UNIT 5	Mid-term Portfolio Due (30%) Dialogue Exercise	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : “Voice,” p. 47- 61, “Drama,” p. 328-367 <u>OWL Handouts</u> : Point of View (PDF), “The Neighbour” by Deep Shankaran and “Reunion” by John Cheever

UNIT 6	<p>Story Analysis: "The Man in the Well" Students assigned proposal workshop submission dates <u>Mechanics: Commas</u></p>	<p><u>Textbook Readings:</u> <i>Imaginative Writing</i>: "Story," p. 166-175, "Character," p. 94-109, and <i>The Canadian Writer's Handbook</i>: "The Comma." p. 150-158 <u>Online Readings:</u> "The Man in the Well" by Ira Sher (from <i>This American Life</i>, audio link) and "Snap" by Emi Benn, and "The Modern Intimate" by Carleigh Baker, Dialogue (PDF)</p>
UNIT 7	<p>Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%) Short Film: "Grandma" Short Film: "Career Day"</p>	<p><u>Textbook Readings:</u> <i>Imaginative Writing</i>: "Fiction," p. 259-294 <u>Online Short Films:</u> "Grandma" and "Stop"</p>
UNIT 8	<p>Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)</p>	<p><u>Recommended Readings:</u> "Kirsty, 22" by Nabeh Ruthnum and "Road Pizza" by Melissa Kuipers</p>
UNIT 9	<p>Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)</p>	<p><u>Textbook Readings:</u> <i>Imaginative Writing</i>: "Developing a Draft to Research," p. 195-202 <u>Online Readings:</u> "Difficult People" by Catronia (link) and "Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid (link)</p>
UNIT 10	<p><u>Mechanics: Apostrophes, Semicolons, Colons, Dashes, Parentheses</u></p>	<p><u>Textbook Readings:</u> <i>The Canadian Writer's Handbook</i>, "The Essentials of Punctuation," p. 158-179</p>
UNIT 11	<p>Narrative Draft Workshop (small groups)</p>	<p><u>Textbook Readings:</u> <i>Imaginative Writing</i>: "Revision," p. 203-206 and "Editing," p. 207-208 and <i>The Canadian Writer's Handbook</i>: "Revising, Editing, and Proofreading," p. 14-16 <u>Online Readings:</u> ""Tips for Writing a Formal Critique" Post draft for workshop (penalty on final for no draft)</p>
UNIT 12	<p>Narrative Assignment Due (35%) Writing Resources Submit final assignment on the last day of Unit 12</p>	<p>Exam Template <u>Online Reading:</u> "Advice for Sending Your Work to Literary Journals" by Kathryn Mockler</p>