

WRITING 2211F 650: THE NAKED WRITER: FUNDAMENTALS OF CREATIVE WRITING – DISTANCE STUDIES

PROFESSOR: David Barrick
OFFICE HOURS: By email/appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**DESCRIPTION**

Students will explore the fundamentals of creative writing and challenge their creativity through the writing of fiction/literary non-fiction, poetry, and drama. In a workshop setting, students will share their work and provide critical feedback on the work of their peers. Use of basic elements such as image, dialogue, character, voice, plot, theme, and setting will be discussed. Students will consider technique, inspiration, influence, revision, and process through reading, writing, and workshop participation.

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.);
- analyze published fiction, poetry, and drama;
- write in three genres;
- provide classmates with critical feedback;
- incorporate class feedback into revisions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Method of Evaluation	Grade Value	Due Date
Poem	15%	Unit 3 – Final Draft
Creative Nonfiction	20%	Unit 4 – Group Workshop Unit 6 – Final Draft
Short Story Workshop Draft	10%	Units 7-10
Revision Assignment with Revision Notes	35%	Units 7-10 – Full Class Workshop Unit 12 – Final Draft
Peer Workshops	20%	Ongoing
	100%	

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

All assignments must be word-processed in a 12-point font; single space your poetry and double space your prose. The title of your assignment, your name, the course, and my name must appear in the top right-hand corner. Please include page numbers, and submit assignments to OWL as Doc files only.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due on the date specified on the schedule. **Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day unless I have granted you an extension.** You must talk to your instructor about extensions *ahead* of the due date; they are not automatic, nor will they be granted retroactively.

In this course, you will submit the final version of all written assignments electronically (*Doc files only*), through OWL, to Turnitin.com. No hard copies are required. Do not fax or email assignments; do not drop off assignments anywhere on campus. Also, be aware that you are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments submitted.

WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS/PARTICIPATION

This course is entirely online and asynchronous, so you will be required to participate in weekly OWL discussion forums. These mandatory class discussions are based on the weekly readings and function as the equivalent of class attendance.

NOTE: the use of racist or any language that works against the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will not be tolerated. Before posting, please review all your discussion comments to ensure that they are respectful and appropriate.

OFFICE HOURS/E-MAIL POLICY

This term, I will not be holding in-person office hours. Instead, I will be answering course questions and offering additional clarification/help through email. 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.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Students experiencing general difficulty with the course material may contact the [Student Development Centre](#) for counselling and tutoring services, as well as writing consultation. The Student Development Centre also has staff members who specialize in assisting students with various disabilities to adjust to the university environment. Please advise me at the beginning of the term if you have any special needs.

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). Plagiarized work will receive an ‘F’ (ranging from 0 to 49) and may result in failure in the course as a whole.

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 Western and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

PREREQUISITES

“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 Program.

ACCOMMODATION POLICIES

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](#).

Other Important Links for Student 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.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

UNITS	UNIT FOCUS	READINGS
UNIT 1 <i>(Weds September 9th)</i> Monday Sept 14, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions: Introductions and Why Write? • Assignment: Image Poem • Writing Exercise #1: Images 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: Online Etiquette and Importance of Images, Poetry Assignment, Discussion Assignment, Syllabus, Introduction to Instructor, Information for Students in a Writing Course • <u>Course Pack</u>: “The Impact of Images” and “Using the Sound of Language” by Stephen Minot
UNIT 2 Monday Sept 21, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Simile & Metaphor • Writing Exercise #2: Simile & Metaphor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: Figurative Language, “Teach Us to Number Our Days” by Rita Dove, Peer Workshop Assignment • <u>Course Pack</u>: “Verse That Is Free” and “Diction, Tone, and Voice” by Mary Oliver; “Monkey Ranch” by Julie Bruck; “I sit on the portable steps...” and “We stare through each other...” by Douglas Burnet Smith; and “Oranges” by Gary Soto
UNIT 3 Monday Sept 28, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Image Poem Due (15%) • Assignment: Creative Nonfiction • Discussion: Creative Nonfiction (Compare & Contrast) • Writing Exercise #3: Bad Behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: “The Art of Nonfiction,” interview with Joan Didion in <i>The Paris Review</i>; “David Sedaris and His Defenders,” in <i>Slate Magazine</i> by Jack Shafer, Creative Nonfiction Assignment • <u>Course Pack</u>: Excerpt from <i>The Pharmacist's Mate</i> by Amy Fusselman; “Writing Short Creative Nonfiction” by David Starkey from <i>Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief</i>
UNIT 4 Monday Oct. 5, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop: Creative Nonfiction • Discussion: “That Crafty Feeling” • Writing Exercise #4: Character Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: Workshop Etiquette, Peer Workshop Assignment • <u>Course Pack</u>: “That Crafty Feeling” by Zadie Smith from <i>Changing My Mind</i>
UNIT 5 Tuesday Oct. 13, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Narrative Explorations & “Simple Recipes” • Writing Exercise #5: Brainstorming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: Listen to some podcasts from The Moth, This American Life, and Unfictional • <u>Course Pack</u>: “Simple Recipes” by Madeleine Thien
UNIT 6 Monday Oct. 19, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Nonfiction Assignment Due (20%) • Assignment: Short Story Workshop • Discussion: “Hills Like White Elephants” • Writing Exercise #6: Conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: Short Story Workshop Assignment, Revision Assignment, Explore <i>The New Yorker</i> Podcasts, Dialogue, Subtext • <u>Course Pack</u>: “Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernst Hemingway, “Introduction,” <i>Fiction: A Longman Pocket Anthology</i>, Edited by R.S. Gwynn
UNIT 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Workshop: Short Story Draft (10%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: “Waiting for Adnan” by Hajera Khaja (Joyland.com)

Monday Oct. 26, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: “The Lottery” and “Break All the Way Down” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Course Pack</u>: “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson; “Types of Prose in Fiction” and “Choosing a Point of View” by Jack Hodgins, “Tension” by Heather Sellers from <i>The Practice of Creative Writing</i>
November 2-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • READING WEEK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Assigned Readings
UNIT 8 Monday Nov. 9, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Workshop: Short Story Draft (10%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: Explore the online journal Joyland: A Hub for Short Fiction
UNIT 9 Monday Nov. 16, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Workshop: Short Story Draft (10%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: Explore the online journal Drunken Boat
UNIT10 Monday Nov 23, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Workshop: Short Story Draft (10%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: Explore the online journal Electric Literature
UNIT 11 Monday Nov 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision Strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Course Pack Readings</u>: “Mermaid in the Jar” by Sheila Heti • <u>Course Pack</u>: “Revision” by Heather Sellers from <i>The Practice of Creative Writing</i>
UNIT 12 Monday Dec 7, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision Assignment Due (35%) • Discussion: Self Assessment • Writing Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Online Readings</u>: Writing Resources, What Editors Want • <u>Course Pack</u>: “Publication” by Heather Sellers from <i>The Practice of Creative Writing</i>