

**WRITING 1000G:  
THE WRITERS' STUDIO  
Winter 2020**

**Section: 003**  
**Time: Friday 9:30-12:30**  
**Location: UC 1220**  
**Instructor: Dr. Aaron Schneider**  
**Email: [aschnei4@uwo.ca](mailto:aschnei4@uwo.ca) or OWL email**  
**Office Hours: Monday 9:30-11:30 or by appointment**  
**Office: UC 2431**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 2017 (available at The Bookstore at Western)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Assignment:</b>	<b>Value;</b>
Assignment 1: Image Poem	7.5%
Assignment 2: Flash Fiction	10%
Assignment 3: Analysis or Creative Nonfiction	12.5%
Assignment 4: Capstone Proposal	15%
Assignment 5: Capstone Assignment	35%
Exam	20%

**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 in UC directly across from UC-2431, 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 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>).”

*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:**

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.

## 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
- *Imaginative Writing*: Chapter 1

### Week 2 (January 17):

#### **\*\*Image Poem Workshop\*\***

#### Meeting Focus:

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

#### Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: Chapter 2 and Chapter 10
- *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: Chapters 3, 6, 7a, 8a-d, and 10-13

### Week 3 (January 24):

#### **\*\*Image Poem Due in Class\*\***

#### Meeting Focus:

- Flash Fiction
- Grammar: Paragraphs

#### Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: Chapter 5 and Chapter 9
- *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: Chapters 1 and 2

### Week 4 (January 31):

#### **\*\*Flash Fiction Workshop\*\***

#### Meeting Focus:

- Fiction
- Grammar: Commas

#### Readings:

- *Imaginative Writing*: Chapter 4 and Chapter 6
- *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: Chapter 15

**Week 5 (February 7):**  
**\*\*Flash Fiction Due in Class\*\***

**Meeting Focus:**

- Creative Nonfiction
- Discuss “A Plague of Tics”
- Grammar: Colons and Semicolons

**Readings:**

- *Imaginative Writing*: Chapter 3 and Chapter 8
- *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: Chapters 11 and 17

**Week 6 (February 14):**  
**\*\*Analysis/Flash Creative Nonfiction Due in Class\*\***

**Meeting Focus:**

- Sign up for proposal presentations
- Listen in class & discuss: “The Man in the Well” by Ira Sher (from *This American Life*)
- Listen in class & discuss: “Reunion” by John Cheever
- Grammar: common sentence problems

**Readings:**

- *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*: Chapter 5

**\*\*Reading Break\*\***

**Week 7 (February 28):**

**Meeting Focus:**

- Drama
- Discuss film: “Stop”

**Readings:**

- *Imaginative Writing*: Chapter 11

**Week 8 (March 6):**

**Meeting Focus:**

- **Capstone Proposal Presentations**

**Readings:**

- *Imaginative Writing*: Chapter 7

**Week 9 (March 13):**

**Meeting Focus:**

- Capstone Proposal Presentations

**Week 10 (March 20):**

**Meeting Focus:**

- Capstone Proposal Presentations

**Week 11 (March 27):**

**\*\*Capstone Assignment Workshop\*\***

**Meeting Focus:**

- Publishing your work: submitting to journals
- Narrative Draft Workshop (small groups)
- One-on-one meetings with professor

**Week 12 (April 3):**

**\*\*Capstone Assignment Due in Class\*\***

**Meeting Focus:**

- Publishing your work: submitting to presses
- Exam Review

**Note: There will be in class writing exercises and we will occasionally look at and discuss pieces of writing in class. These exercises and readings will depend on the schedule and on the needs of the class, and are not listed on the syllabus.**