

## WRITING 1000G: THE WRITERS' STUDIO – Winter 2020

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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 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, 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

#### 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.*

#### **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](http://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](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>).”

### **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.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	MEETING FOCUS	READINGS
<b>UNIT 1</b> Jan 6 2020	Introduction to course Images and writing through the senses	Pick up textbooks from the bookstore
<b>UNIT 2</b> Jan 13 2020	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
<b>UNIT 3</b> Jan 20 2020	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
<b>UNIT 4</b> Jan 27 2020	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)
<b>UNIT 5</b> Feb 3 2020	<b>Mid-term Portfolio Due (30%)</b> 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
<b>UNIT 6</b> Feb 10 2020	Story Analysis: "The Man in the Well" Students assigned proposal workshop submission dates <u>Mechanics</u> : <i>Commas</i>	<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)
<b>Feb 17-21</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>	<b>FEB 17 - 21</b>
<b>UNIT 7</b> Feb 24 2020	<b>Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)</b> Short Film: "Grandma" Short Film: "Stop"	<u>extbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : "Fiction," p. 259-294 <u>Online Short Films</u> : "Grandma" and "Stop"
<b>UNIT 8</b> March 2 2020	<b>Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)</b>	<u>Recommended Readings</u> : "Kirsty, 22" by Nabeh Ruthnum and "Road Pizza" by Melissa Kuipers

<b>UNIT 9</b> <i>March 9 2020</i>	<b>Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)</b>	<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)
<b>UNIT10</b> <i>March 16 2020</i>	<u>Mechanics:</u> <i>Apostrophes, Semicolons, Colons, Dashes, Parentheses</i>	<u>Textbook Readings:</u> <i>The Canadian Writer’s Handbook</i> , “The Essentials of Punctuation,” p. 158-179
<b>UNIT 11</b> <i>March 23 2020</i>	Narrative Draft Workshop (small groups)	<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)
<b>UNIT 12</b> <i>March 30, 2020</i>	<b>Narrative Assignment Final Due (35%)</b> Writing Resources Submit final assignment on the last day of Unit 12	Exam Template <u>Online Reading:</u> “Advice for Sending Your Work to Literary Journals” by Kathryn Mockler