

WRITING 2226G: OUT OF THE BOOK: CONTEMPORARY EXPERIMENTAL WRITING PRACTICES – WINTER 2020

SECTION: 001

PROFESSOR: Kathryn Mockler

DESCRIPTION

In this experimental creative writing course students use a variety of media, online platforms, and source material to create innovative projects that challenge traditional modes of literary expression. They will be introduced to experimental writers/artists—Elsa Von Freytag-Loringhoven, Kathy Acker, NourbeSe Phillip, Jordan Abel, etc. Assignments will incorporate the use of experimental techniques such as transcription, redaction, sampling, erasure, rearrangement, chance, constraint, and borrowing.

REQUIRED TEXTS & ONLINE RESOURCES

- *Against Expression: An Anthology of Conceptual Writing*, Edited by Craig Dworkin and Kenneth Goldsmith, 2011, Available as a free PDF - http://monoskop.org/images/3/3c/Dworkin_Craig_Goldsmith_Kenneth_ed_Against_Expression_An_Anthology_of_Conceptual_Writing.pdf (Note this book has not been ordered to the Western Bookstore because it's a free PDF. But you can order it on your own if you prefer to have a hard copy).
- *BAX 2015: Best American Experimental Writing* Paperback, Jan 5 2016 by [Seth Abramson](#) (Ed.), [Jesse Damiani](#) (Ed.), [Douglas Kearney](#) (Ed.) (Available at Western Bookstore)
- *Writing Intersectional Identities: Key Words for Creative Writers* by Janelle Adsit and Renee M. Byrd, 2019 (Available at Western Bookstore)
- Ubuweb.com (Online resource)
- Out of the Book: Contemporary Experimental Writing Practices Website:
- <http://outofthebookexperimentalwriting.weebly.com> (Online resource)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have demonstrated the ability to

- communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably; orally and in writing to a range of audiences;
- identify the fundamental elements and key concepts of conceptual writing and experimental writing in multiple genres;
- research, analyze, and respond critically to published works through weekly responses, class discussion, and assignments
- provide peers with critical feedback on their creative assignments;
- collaborate on creative performance project; and
- incorporate feedback into assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

METHOD OF EVALUATION	GRADE VALUE	DEADLINE
Experimental Prose Assignment	25%	Week 5
Proposal Presentation	25%	Weeks 7-10
In class Peer Critique	10%	Weeks 7-10
Open Form Project (includes artist description, research, project notes)	40%	Week 12
Total	100%	

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

If assignments are submitted on paper, they are to be typed, double-spaced, and stapled. All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and instructor's name on the first page. Please include page numbers and staple your assignments.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Please note that I do not give feedback or discuss grades over email. I'm happy to answer quick questions over email that cannot wait until our next class. If you have a concern or would like additional feedback, please visit me during the office hours listed above. If you are not available during that time, email me to schedule an appointment during my alternate time slot.

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

All assignments must be word-processed in a 12-point Courier font for scripts and a 12-point for other assignments. Scripts must be in proper screenplay format as described in class. Students must use the free Celtx software or another screenwriting program. All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and instructor's name on the first page. Please include page numbers and staple your assignments.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

In this course, you will be required to submit the final version of each of your assignments electronically via OWL as a PDF 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 up to 5% per day including weekends. If you need an extension for a medical reason, you must contact the Academic Counselling of your home Faculty.

If necessary, please submit assignments to the English and Writing Studies Department Drop Box located in UC 2431, making sure you include your instructor's name and your section number. However, do not fax or email assignments. Keep copies (electronic, paper, or both) of all assignments submitted.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Students experiencing general difficulty with the course material may contact the Student Development Centre in UCC, Suite 210 or at (519) 661-3031 for counselling and tutoring services. 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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

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 be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have good reasons for waiving an absence of one class meeting (e.g. if you've missed three hours, and need or want to miss another class meeting) discuss these reasons with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation. That advisor may then contact all of your instructors. See also: '**Medical Accommodation Policy**' below.

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.

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.

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>).

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:

At least 65% in one of [Writing 2101F/G](#), [Writing 2125F/G](#) (or the former Writing 2121F/G), [Writing 2111F/G](#), [Writing 2130F/G](#) or [Writing 2131F/G](#); or at least 65% in one of [Writing 1000F/G](#), [Writing 1030F/G](#), or [Writing 1031F/G](#); or at least 65% in each of [MIT 1020E](#) (or both of [MIT 1021F/G](#) and [MIT 1022F/G](#)) and [MIT 1025F/G](#); or permission of the Department (consult the Undergraduate Program Director, Writing).

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION POLICY

Writing Studies: New Accommodation Policy

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

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

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 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.