

WRITING 2218F 650: To Make a Long Story Short (*distance studies*) (*Introduction to Writing Short Fiction*)

Fall 2021

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Course Description and Objectives

Students will strive to develop not only fiction writing ability, but also critical reading skills. **The short story** will be the focus of the course.

Based on professional models, instructor guidance and online forum discussions, students will produce their own 2 short fictions, progressing from short “flash” fictions of 500-750 words, to a more moderate length of 750-1000 words (“sudden” fiction) that will stress the use of dialogue.

The ability to communicate information, arguments and analyses accurately and reliably, orally and in writing to a range of audiences, is an objective of all the Writing Program courses.

Students are expected to **participate** in the online workshop process: peer evaluation, editing, drafting, discussion topics, etc. In a writing workshop, one learns to write for others besides oneself – to respect one’s readers and work toward their seamless reading.

Required Text (*available in University Bookstore*)

1. *Flash Fiction Forward*, ed. by James Thomas & Robert Shepard [*\$21*] (80 very short stories)
[to be read by **Week 2**]

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/search/products?search=flash%20fiction%20forward&sort=search_api_relevance%20DESC

https://www.amazon.ca/Flash-Fiction-Forward-Short-Stories/dp/0393328023/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=flash+fiction+forward&qid=1599137939&s=books&sr=1-1

Course Requirements

Story 1 Draft	10%	Week 3/4/5/6
Revision Notes for Story 1	10%	Week 7
Final Story 1	25%	Week 7
Story 2 Draft	10%	Week 8/9/10/11
Revision Notes for Story 2	10%	Week 12
Final Story 2	25%	Week 12
Workshop engagement	10%	ongoing
Total:	100%	

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.

Assignments/Assignment Format

Assignments must be typed (12-point font) and double-spaced. All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and instructor's name on the first page.

Submitting Assignments

- **NOTE:** All writing must be backed up on CD, disk or memory stick (**including all drafts**), for submission if requested.
- All work submitted for this class must be developed from a draft approved by the instructor. If, for any reason, a draft of any creative work is deemed unacceptable (*originality, topic, language, genre, etc.*), it must be replaced by an acceptable draft, which will subsequently be developed into an acceptable finished work.
- **All assignments must be accompanied by a draft and Revision Notes.**
- Late assignments will be penalized 5% a day (including weekends) unless an extension has been negotiated at least 48 hours in advance of due date.

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.pdfOther useful links:.

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>).”

Students may not submit assignments from other courses that have been previously graded and credited.

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.”

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 c) Special Permission of the Program.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION POLICY

The official Western/Writing Studies Medical Accommodation Policy appears below. This remains 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 useful links:

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/>

Weekly Class Schedule

Date	Meeting focus	Readings/Assignments (and other information)
Week 1 <i>Sept 13, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Introductions in FORUMs (Week 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick up textbooks from bookstore Read the stories assigned (in the UNIT 1 list email) in <i>Flash Fiction Forward</i> (ed. Thomas & Shepard) for next class Assignment for next class: Select 2 stories from the UNIT 1 List of stories in <i>Flash Fiction Forward</i> and explain the reasons why you singled them out. POST YOUR RESPONSES IN THE WEEK 2 FORUM
Week 2 <i>Sept 20, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and comment on the posts of your peers re their selection of stories from <i>Flash Fiction Forward</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups assigned for Workshops in Weeks 3/4/5/6 Writing assignment for WEEK 3/4/5/6: Write a “flash fiction” (250-750 words maximum). It may be modelled on a story from <i>Flash Fiction Forward</i> that you admired. Workshop Group 1 will post their story draft as soon as possible on the first day of Week 3.
Week 3 <i>Sept 27, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flash Fiction Workshop (Group 1) Group 1 will post their drafts as soon as possible after the Unit opens. The entire class will weigh in with comments and suggestions to improve the draft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STUDENTS WILL HAVE 2 WEEKS FROM THE DATE OF THEIR STORY’S WORKSHOP TO SUBMIT FINAL DRAFT, ALONG WITH REVISION NOTES (in Assignments). Stories work-shopped this week due WEEK 5.
Week 4 <i>Oct 4, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flash Fiction Workshop (Group 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (as above) Stories work-shopped today due WEEK 6.
Week 5 <i>Oct 11, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flash Fiction Workshop (Group 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stories work-shopped WEEK 3 due today. Stories work-shopped today due WEEK 7

Week 6 <i>Oct 18, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flash Fiction Workshop (Group 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories work-shopped today due WEEK 8
Week 7 <i>Oct 25, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and Readings of specific assigned stories in Week 7 FORUM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings provided • Groups assigned for Workshops in Weeks 8/9/10/11
Nov 1 – 5	READING WEEK	
Week 8 <i>Nov 8, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden Fiction Workshop (Group 1) • STRESS USE OF DIALOGUE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories work-shopped WEEK 6 due today. • Stories work-shopped today due WEEK 10.
Week 9 <i>Nov 15, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden Fiction Workshop • <i>Stress use of dialogue</i> (Group 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories work-shopped WEEK 7 due today. • Stories work-shopped today due WEEK 11
Week 10 <i>Nov 22, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden Fiction Workshop • <i>Stress use of dialogue</i> (Group 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories work-shopped WEEK 8 due today. • ALL FINAL STORIES DUE WEEK 12 (Final Class: WEEK 12)
Week 11 <i>Nov 29, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden Fiction Workshop • <i>Stress use of dialogue</i> (Part 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL FINAL STORIES DUE WEEK 12 (Final Class: WEEK 12)
Week 12 <i>Dec 6, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Story due, with Revision Notes. 	