

WRITING 1000G: THE WRITERS' STUDIO – Winter 2021

SECTION 650 Online
PROFESSOR: David Barrick

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OFFICE HOURS: By email/appointment

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 4th 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, micro-fiction, poetry analysis)	30%	Unit 5
Narrative Assignment Proposal	15%	Units 7 to 9
Narrative Assignment (Final Draft with Revision Notes)	35%	Unit 12
Exam	20%	TBA
Total	100%	

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 (in OWL forums) 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 (Unit 2 and Unit 3 OWL forums), they could **lose up to 10%** off their final grade for that assignment.*

Although **weekly discussions** in OWL forums are not graded, they are essential for your progress in the course. It's your opportunity to respond to course readings and assignments and to get to know your classmates. Non-participation in assigned discussions (missing more than one week of discussion forums without accommodation) will result in a **5% deduction** of your overall course grade.

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

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

Assignments must be typed and double-spaced (poetry should be single-spaced). 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 standards for documentation, detailed in *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*, p. 241-258.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

In this course you will be required to submit the final version of each of your assignments electronically, through OWL Assignments, to turnitin.com on the due dates specified in the syllabus (Docx files ONLY please).

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. Extensions will not be granted on the due date or after the deadline has passed. **It is your responsibility to keep track of deadlines and to ask for clarification ahead of time if you are not sure.** Please see the accommodation policy below. Keep copies (electronic, paper, or both) of all assignments submitted.

OFFICE HOURS/E-MAIL POLICY

Since this course is entirely online and asynchronous, I will not be holding in-person office hours. Instead, I will be answering course questions and offering additional clarification/help through email (dbarric@uwo.ca). 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.

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).

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

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.”

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to minor changes)

DATE	MEETING FOCUS	READINGS
UNIT 1 Monday Jan 11, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to course ○ Images and writing through the senses 	Pick up textbooks from the bookstore
UNIT 2 Monday Jan 18, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 <u>OWL Handouts</u> : Subject and Verbs, Workshop Etiquette, Reading Image Poems
UNIT 3 Monday Jan 25, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Micro-fiction 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
UNIT 4 Monday Feb 1, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion “A Plague of Tics” ○ <u>Grammar</u>: <i>Run-on Sentences</i> ○ Prepare Mid-Term Portfolio for Unit 5 submission 	<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), Recommended Readings (Links)
UNIT 5 Mon Feb 8, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mid-term Portfolio Due (30%) ○ Dialogue Exercise 	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : “Voice,” p. 47- 61 <u>OWL Handouts</u> : Point of View (PDF), “The Neighbour” by Deep Shankaran and “Reunion” by John Cheever

Feb 13-21	○ READING WEEK	<u>NO ASSIGNED READINGS</u>
UNIT 6 Monday Feb 22, 2021	○ Story Analysis: "The Man in the Well" ○ Proposal workshop submission dates will be assigned ○ <u>Mechanics</u> : <i>Commas</i>	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : "Story," p. 166-175 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), Dialogue (PDF)
UNIT 7 Monday March 1, 2021	○ Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%) ○ Short Film Analysis: "Grandma"	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : "Fiction," p. 259-294 <u>Online Short Films</u> : "Grandma" by Anthony Chen (Link)
UNIT 8 Monday March 8, 2021	○ Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : "Drama," p. 328-367 <u>Recommended Readings</u> : "Kirsty, 22" by Naben Ruthnum
UNIT 9 Monday March 15, 2021	○ Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : Developing a Draft to Research, p. 195-202; Character, p. 94-109 <u>Online Readings</u> : "Difficult People" by Catriona Wright and "Punctuation" (PDF)
UNIT 10 Monday March 22, 2021	○ Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%) ○ <u>Mechanics</u> : Apostrophes, Semicolons, Colons, Dashes, Parentheses	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>The Canadian Writer's Handbook</i> , "The Essentials of Punctuation," p. 158-165, 218-221
UNIT 11 Monday March 29, 2021	○ Narrative Draft Workshop (small groups) ○ Post draft for workshop (10% <i>penalty on final submission if no draft is posted</i>)	<u>Textbook Readings</u> : <i>Imaginative Writing</i> : "Revision," p. 203-206 and "Editing," p. 207-208 <u>Online Readings</u> : "How to Read a Short Story," "How to Read a Script," and "Tips for Writing a Formal Critique"
UNIT 12 Monday April 5, 2021	○ Narrative Assignment Final Due (35%) ○ Writing Resources ○ Submit final assignment on the last day of Unit 12	<i>The Canadian Writer's Handbook</i> : "Revising, Editing, and Proofreading," p. 14-16 Exam Template <u>Online Reading</u> : "Advice for Sending Your Work to Literary Journals" and "Resources for Writers and Publishing Tips"