WRITING 1000G:  
THE WRITERS’ STUDIO  
Winter 2021

Section: 651  
Professor: Dr. Aaron Schneider  
Email: aschnei4@uwo.ca or OWL email  
Office: UC 2431 (note: I will not be in my office during the Winter Term)

Office Hours: Because this is an online course, I will not be holding regular office hours; however, I will be available to meet virtually at a variety of times during the week. Please email me to setup a meeting time that works. You can expect a reply within one working day.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Method of Evaluation</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Portfolio (image poem, setting description, analysis)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrative Assignment Proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Weeks 7 to 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrative Assignment (Final Draft with Revision Notes)</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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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 particulate 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.

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT
Assignments must be typed and double spaced, and as Word Documents. 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 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.

EMAIL POLICY
I reply to email (either Western or OWL) in two working days. I do not answer email 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/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**
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 Policy**

*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.

**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**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>FOCUS</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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| **WEEK/UNIT 1:**  
January 11-15 | Introduction to course  
OWL Handouts: Subject and Verbs, Workshop Etiquette, Reading Image Poems |
| **WEEK/UNIT 2:**  
January 18-22 | Image Poem Workshop  
OWL Handouts: Fragments |
| **WEEK/UNIT 3:**  
January 25-29 | Setting Workshop  
Giving and Receiving Feedback  
OWL Handouts: Run-on Sentences, “A Plague of Tics” by David Sedaris (audio) |
| **WEEK/UNIT 4:**  
February 1-5 | Discussion: “A Plague of Tics”  
Grammar: *Run-on Sentences*  
OWL Handouts: Run-on Sentences, “A Plague of Tics” by David Sedaris (audio) |
| **WEEK/UNIT 5:**  
February 8-12 | Mid-term Portfolio Due (30%)  
OWL Handouts: Point of View (PDF), “The Neighbour” by Deep Shankaran and “Reunion” by John Cheever |
| Reading Break | Reading Break | Reading Break |
| **WEEK/UNIT 6:**  
February 22-26 | Story Analysis: “The Man in the Well” Students assigned proposal workshop submission dates  
Online Readings: “The Man in the Well” by Ira Sher (from *This American Life*, audio link) and “Snap” by Emi Benn, Dialogue (PDF) |
| **WEEK/UNIT 7:**  
March 1-5 | Narrative Proposal Workshop (15%)  
Short Film: “Grandma”  
Online Short Films: “Grandma” and “Stop” |
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<tr>
<th><strong>Week/Unit</strong></th>
<th><strong>Narrative Proposal Workshop</strong></th>
<th><strong>Recommended Readings</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Week/Unit 8</td>
<td>March 8-12</td>
<td>&quot;Kirsty, 22&quot; by Naben Ruthnum and &quot;Road Pizza&quot; by Melissa Kuipers</td>
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<td>Week/Unit 9</td>
<td>March 15-19</td>
<td>&quot;Developing a Draft to Research,&quot; p. 195-202</td>
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<td>&quot;Difficult People&quot; by Catronia Wright (link) and &quot;Girl&quot; by Jamaica Kincaid (link)</td>
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<td>Week/Unit 10</td>
<td>March 22-26</td>
<td>&quot;The Essentials of Punctuation,&quot; p. 158-179</td>
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<td>&quot;Tips for Writing a Formal Critique&quot;</td>
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<td>Post draft for workshop (penalty on final for no draft)</td>
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<td>Week/Unit 12</td>
<td>April 5-9</td>
<td>Exam Template</td>
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<td>Week/Unit 13</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Narrative Assignment Final Due (35%)</td>
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