

**Writing 2291G: Special Topics in Writing****Creating Youth: Writing for Young Adults****Course outline for Winter 2021**

Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

**Instructor:** Dr. Miranda Green-Barteet**Email:** [\\*\\*mgreenb6@uwo.ca](mailto:**mgreenb6@uwo.ca)**Office:** Lawson Hall 3245**Office Hours:** \*\*\*T 10:30-12:00 and By Appt.**Phone:** 519-661-2111 ext. 84661**Class Time:** W 11:00-12:30, \*synchronous meetings

\*Check the reading schedule and OWL for a list of days that we will meet synchronously.

\*\*Email is the best way to contact me. Please allow at least 48 hours for me to respond to you.

\*\*\*A list of days I will hold in-person office hours and virtual office hours is on OWL.

**Land Acknowledgement:**

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London.

**Course Description and Objectives**

In recent years, literature for young adults has become enormously popular, even as critics and writers struggle to define the genre. Generally, young adult (YA) literature is literature written for readers between the ages of 12 and 18, but it can also be geared toward university-aged readers. Most works of YA feature a teenage protagonist, a protagonist who does not yet identify as an adult, or one who approaches problems from an adolescent perspective. While the genre is most commonly targeted to adolescents, approximately half of individuals reading YA literature are adults, and children younger than 12 often read YA literature as well. The purpose of YA literature, as critic Roberta Seelinger Trites asserts, is to help adolescents "learn about the social forces around them. They learn to negotiate the levels of power within which they myriad of social institutions they must function including family; the church; school; the government; social constructions of sexuality, gender, race, and class; and social mores surrounding death." As Trites explains, YA literature can help adolescents learn how to negotiate their place in the world. The genre then, which includes realistic fiction, speculative fiction, historical fiction, drama, and verse novels, is diverse and is defined primarily by the characters inhabiting the literature and those for whom it is written.

In this course, we will consider the art and craft of writing for young adult readers. We will begin by reading and discussing a range of texts written for young adults. The purpose of the reading will be to

discover and examine principles of craft, paying particular attention to narration, character development, story development, and style. As we read, we'll consider the differences and similarities between "great" YA literature and "great" adult literature. We will then write literature for young adults, completing a variety of assignments and in-class workshops, commenting on one another's work. Our goal is to complete several pieces geared specifically to young adult readers.

Throughout the semester, in addition to gaining and sharing knowledge through the assigned readings and writing assignments, successful students will be learn to

- Understand YA literature as a genre and how it has developed;
- Identify key elements of YA literature and apply those elements in their own writing;
- Generate ideas in a variety of genres, including fiction and poetry;
- Analyse and respond critically to published writing and the work of their peers;
- Incorporate feedback into revisions;
- And identify and correct errors in composition, grammar, and mechanics.

### Required Texts

In addition to the following novels, we will also read secondary source material, which I will post to OWL. You may purchase the editions I have selected, available at the UWO bookstore, or you may use whatever edition you prefer, including an electronic version. You will need to bring a version of the text to class as we will discuss specific passages. Because this class is focused on writing literature, we may not read a text in its entirety.

*The Outsiders* (1967), S.E. Hinton  
*The Lies We Tell Ourselves* (2014), Robin Talley  
*The Sun is Also a Star* (2016), Nicola Yoon  
*The Marrow Thieves* (2018), Cherie Dimaline

### Course Delivery

Our course is hybrid, which means that we will meet virtually most weeks on Wednesdays from 11-12:30 EST.

We will meet using Zoom. In an attempt to keep our course meetings secure, I will schedule a recurring session and will post the link in OWL. Do not share the link or pass code with anyone outside of our class.

All course materials will be posted to our OWL site: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

### Course Requirements (**complete statement of all assignments/grade components**)

Participation/Workshop Participation	10%	Ongoing
Short Writing Exercises & Forum Posts	10%	Ongoing
Short Fiction	15%	Due: Feb. 3
Novel Pitch	15%	Due: Feb. 24
Novel Chunk	20%	Due: Mar. 17

Revised Novel Chunk and Process Analysis	30%	Due: Apr. 7
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Participation/Workshop Participation: In my opinion, the most successful college classrooms have students and instructors equally engaged in a discussion about the readings and assignments. I expect that all students will complete assigned course readings and will be prepared to discuss those readings on the appropriate day as well as prepared to participate in workshops. Class discussion and in-class writing and work shopping will comprise a large part of virtual meetings, and while I recognize that not all students are comfortable speaking in class and that there is some difficulty in holding class discussions via Zoom, I do expect that all students will be engaged and actively listening.

Due to the nature of Zoom, I will assign each two students to be co-hosts on a rotating weekly basis. As co-hosts, the students will assist with any technical issues that arise, monitor the chat and periodically inform the instructor of any questions/comments, and summarize any discussion that takes place in the chat for the other students. Please note: chat should only be used for class purposes. I will notify you as to when you are the co-host before the second-class meeting.

Short Writing Exercises & Forum Posts: You will complete a minimum of 3 short writing exercises over the semester as well as several forum posts. All of these assignments will be completed in the Forum Module of OWL.

Short Fiction: You will complete a short fiction assignment, which we will begin in class and workshop. A detailed prompt is available in OWL.

Novel Pitch and Outline: You will complete a novel pitch and a novel outline. A detailed prompt is available in OWL.

Novel Chunk: You will complete a chunk of a novel-in-progress. A detailed prompt is available in OWL.

Revised Novel Chunk and Process Analysis: Based on feedback received from the instructor and during class workshops, you will revise your novel chunk and complete a process analysis to explain how you approached and completed your revision.

## Course Policies

### Professionalism & Privacy:

Western Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations apply to this course:

- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL.
- All course materials created by the instructor are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared.
- All course materials created by graduate students (i.e., presentations, handouts, discussion questions, etc.) are the intellectual property of the student creating the materials and cannot be sold/shared.
- Recording are not permitted (audio or video) without the instructor's or the students' explicit permission.
- Permitted recordings are only to be used for class and are not to be distributed.
- All recorded sessions, if any, will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed.
- Students should feel free to keep their cameras on or off as they choose, with the exception of presentations. When you are giving a presentation, please turn your camera on.
- Students should also feel free to use an appropriate virtual background and to use a nickname on Zoom. If you choose to use a nickname, please email me so that I learn your nickname and mark your attendance based on your nickname.

**Submitting Assignments:** All assignments are due in-class on the date stated on the class schedule. You are expected to submit an electronic version to OWL. All papers should be submitted as .doc or .dox files. Assignments should be submitted at the time indicated on each assignment prompt. Please get in touch via email 24-hours prior to an assignment's due date to request an extension.

**Attendance Policy:** The very nature of this course requires that you attend regularly to do well. You are expected to come to class each week. Should you need to be absent, notify me as soon as you know you will be away.

**Working from Home:** The pandemic has changed the way we conceive of workspaces and home spaces. As we are all working from home, I understand that you (and that I) may be interrupted by pets, parents, partners, and/or children, etc. As a group, we will be tolerant and understanding of such interruptions. Should you need to step away from the virtual class to deal with something going on at home, please feel free to do so, leaving a comment in the chat if you are able.

**Cameras and Microphones:** Please feel free to have your camera on or off as you choose or as is necessary to accommodate your internet speed/bandwidth. If you are able, please do have your camera on when asking a question. If you chose to use a static picture of yourself or an image, you are expected to choose one appropriate for an academic/professional setting. To minimize background noise, please keep your microphone off unless you are speaking. Use the hand raised feature when you want to speak. You should feel free to use an appropriate virtual background and to use a nickname on Zoom. If you choose to use a nickname, please email me so that I learn your nickname and mark your attendance based on your nickname.

**Owl/Sakai:** The use of OWL/Sakai is necessary for successful completion of this course. This includes accessing readings as stipulated in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, and submitting assignments OWL. All course information, including assignments, will be posted on the course website.

**Communicating with Instructor:** Email is the best way to communicate with me. It may take up to 24 hours for me to respond to you during the week and 48 hours on the weekend.

**Statement on Academic Offences:** 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\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf).

## **Western Academic Policies and Statements**

### **Absence from Course Commitments**

#### **[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)**

In the interest of the health and safety of students and health care providers, you are no longer required to seek a medical note for absences this term. If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness you should use the [Illness Reporting Tool](#). This tool takes the place of the need to submit a medical note and the Self-Reported Absence System formally used by undergraduate students.

You are required to self-report every day that you are ill and unable to complete course commitments. Details about when you should submit missed work, the format of the missed work can be found in the Section 7. Evaluation above. Students should communicate promptly with their instructor and use this tool with integrity.

### **Accommodation for Religious Holidays**

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](#).

## **Special Examinations**

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

## **Academic Offenses**

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

## **Accessibility Statement**

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

## **Correspondence Statement**

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

## **Turnitin and other similarity review software**

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. 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 Western University and [Turnitin.com](#).

## **Arts and Humanities Academic Policies and Statements**

### **Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement**

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

### **Rounding of Marks Statement**

Across programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. *Final grades* on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark “bumping” will be denied.

## Support Services

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

[Academic Counselling \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

## Assignments/Assignment Format

All assignments are the date stated on the class schedule. All assignments must be submitted as .doc or .docx files in the Assignments module of OWL. All assignments will be submitted to Turniti.com (see below).

### Submitting Assignments/Due dates/late submission penalties etc.

***Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances.*** It is your responsibility to turn assignments in on time. Should you need an extension for any reason, please contact me by email at least 48 hours prior to the day an assignment is due to discuss an extension. Extensions may be granted for the writing assignments, but not for Workshop Participation. If you have a medical or personal emergency, notify me as soon as possible to request an extension (see above). In-class assignments cannot be made up unless the absence is excused.

Electronic Devices: Computers, e-readers, and tablets may be used for the purposes of taking notes and reading course texts so long as usage does not bother other students in class. I expect that electronic devices will be used ONLY for class purposes. At various points in the semester, depending on the nature of the day's discussion and assignments, I may ask you to put away electronic devices. Please refrain from using cell phones in class for any purpose other than reading course texts.

Owl/Sakai: The use of Owl/Sakai is necessary for successful completion of this course. This includes accessing readings as stipulated in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, and submitting assignments to Turnitin.com. All course information, including assignments, will be posted on the course website.

Communicating with Instructor: Email is the best way to communicate with me. It may take up to 24 hours for me to respond to you during the week and 48 hours on the weekend.

Please include your course number in the subject line of the email. Also, read "How To Email Your Professor."

## Attendance

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 the University of Western Ontario **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**

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 2101F/G, 2125F/G (or the former 2121F/G), 2111F/G, 2130F/G, or 2131F/G; or b) a final grade of 70 or more in one of Writing 1000F/G, 1030F/G, 1031F/G, or c) Special Permission of the department.*

### **Medical Accommodation Policy**

For UWO Policy on Accommodation For Medical Illness, see:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

(downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading)

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical or other grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth 10% or more of their final grade** must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds cannot be granted by the instructor or Writing Studies, and Writing Studies requires students in these circumstances to follow the same procedure when seeking academic accommodation on non-medical (i.e. non-medical compassionate or other) grounds.

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth less than 10% of their final grade** must also apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Where in these circumstances the accommodation is being sought on **non-medical grounds**, students should consult in the first instance with their instructor, who may elect to make a decision on the request directly, or refer the student to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other 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 office of a student’s home Faculty.

**“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> 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.