

**Writing 1000F 650 Online:
The Writer's Studio
Fall 2022**

Section 650 Online
Day/Time/Room: n/a
Instructor: Dr. Tom Cull

Email: tcull3@uwo.ca
Office: UC 1220
Office hours: by appointment/zoom

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. *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology* by Nancy Pagh
2. *The Canadian Writer's Handbook, Second Essentials Edition*, by William E. Messenger, Jan de Bruyn, Judy Brown and Ramona Montagnes

ASSIGNMENTS:

Free Verse Poem (Week 3):	10%
Flash Fiction (Week 5):	15%
Flash Creative Nonfiction (Week 7):	15%
Capstone Assignment (Week 12):	40%
Exam:	20%

Note: Assignment due dates are listed on the class schedule and on the assignments on OWL.

Note: Complete assignments are posted on OWL.

ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT:

This is an online course with no scheduled class, and no penalties for missing class. However, it is your responsibility to stay engaged with the course by regularly logging in to OWL to read the weekly lectures and stay abreast of assignments and forums. You are also required to regularly participate in OWL FORUM workshops (see syllabus for workshop dates) where you will give and receive feedback on drafts of your creative pieces. Lecture #1 outlines how the forums will be organized. Lecture #2 includes instructions on how to give and receive constructive feedback on creative works. A penalty of 10% will be assessed to any student who does not post an assignment for workshopping and/or does not provide feedback to the other students in their workshop group.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments should be digitally submitted through the Assignments portal on OWL by 11:55 pm on the Friday of the week the assignment is due.

Note: All assignments, with the exception of scripts, must be submitted as Microsoft Word files. As a Western student, you have access to this program through your Outlook site (the site you use for your Western email). Assignments that do not conform to these file types will receive a grade of 0%.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will be penalized 5% a day.

Do not

- fax assignments
- e-mail assignments

Keep copies (electronic, paper, or both) of all assignments submitted.

EMAIL POLICY:

I respond to email in one working day. You can email me at tcull3@uwo.ca or through OWL email. I do not respond to email on the weekend.

Please note that UWO Instructors can respond only to UWO e-mail addresses. Grades can be communicated only through the Mail aspect of Sakai (OWL), not through UWO e-mail.

STATEMENT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed, and that the diversity and wisdom that students bring to this class be valued and acknowledged as a strength and a benefit to all. My hope is that together, we can build a community of care and responsibility towards one another that, in turn, fosters creativity and engagement.

Important note: Given the sometimes sensitive and challenging nature of the material discussed in the virtual classroom and workshops, it is imperative that there be an atmosphere of trust and responsibility in the classroom. I will attempt to foster an environment in which each student is able to hear and respect each other. It is critical that each student shows respect for all worldviews expressed in class. It is expected that some of the material in this course may evoke strong emotions; please be respectful of others' emotions and be mindful of your own. Please let me know if you find some aspect of the course or workshops particularly troubling. While our intention may not be to cause discomfort or offense, the impact of what happens throughout the course is not to be ignored and is something that I consider to be very important and deserving of attention.

I am always open to listening to students' experiences, and I want to work with students to find acceptable ways to process and address issues that may arise. If for any reason you do not feel comfortable discussing an issue directly with me, I encourage you to seek out another, more comfortable avenue to address the issue such as your academic advisor, or a faculty member. I have included below the contact information for the Director of Writing Studies and the Writing Studies Program Director.

Dr. Kathleen Fraser, Director of Writing Studies: kfraser@uwo.ca

Jamie Johnston, Undergraduate Program Director, Writing Studies: jjohns6@uwo.ca

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

"Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, which can be found here: 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. Information for Writing Studies Instructors Fall/Winter 2022-2023

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 Western and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>."

(Please note that the above required statement does not rule out additional cautions by the instructor—including, perhaps, reminding students that plagiarism includes double submission of

an assignment to two courses without the permission of both instructors. Above all, every instance of egregious plagiarism "with intent to deceive" must be reported to the Director of Writing Studies, in order to determine the penalty and to check for previous offences. A second offence will result in more serious penalties at the Dean's level.)

****Remember: All students in all 1000/2000 level Writing courses must submit all written assignments to turnitin.com through their section's OWL site. This requirement is built into course outline templates, where applicable.***

Academic Accommodation

“Accommodation by Instructor for work worth less than 10% of the overall grade in a course: Instructors are encouraged, in the first instance, to arrange participation requirements and multiple small Information for Writing Studies Instructors Fall/Winter 2022-2023 assignments in such a way as to allow students some flexibility. A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline.

In arranging accommodation, instructors will use good judgment and ensure fair treatment for all students. Instructors must indicate on the course outline how they will be dealing with work worth less than 10% of the total course grade. In particular, instructors must indicate whether medical documentation will be required for absences, late assignments or essays, missed tests, laboratory experiments or tutorials, etc. Where medical documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Academic Counselling/Dean's office, who will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. Given the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy (https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/privacy.pdf), **instructors may not collect medical documentation.**”

Medical Accommodation Policy

“The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents

have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration, and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.”

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics

A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Documentation from Student Health Services

At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.”

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 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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.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. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519-661-3030 (during class hours) or 519-433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.

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 Student Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Owl (Sakai)

Assignments, when they are assigned, will be posted on our Sakai course site. Modifications to the schedule may occur from time to time, but students will be notified by e-mail if this occurs.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to the Course (Sept 12-16)

Readings:

- Week 1 Lecture
- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*:
 - “Why I Write?” (pg. 19)
 - “Practicing Perception” (pg. 25)
 - “Drafting” (pg. 36)
 - “Revision” (pg. 48)
- Online Reading: David Ly’s “Same Ocean”: <http://puritan-magazine.com/winner-same-ocean-2021/>

Activities:

- Introduce yourself to the class by posting in the Week 1 Forum

Week 2: The Elements of Poetry (Sept 19-23)

Readings

- Week 2 Lecture
- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
 - “Image, Detail and Figurative Language” (pg. 67)
 - “Sound” (pg. 80)
 - “Writing Poems” (pg. 139)
 - Kelli Russel Agodo, “Geography” (pg. 207)
 - Stephanie Bolster, “Many Have Written Poems about Blackberries” (pg. 242)
 - T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (pg. 265)
 - Nancy Pagh, “Love Song: After T.S. Eliot” (pg. 370)
 - Sina Queyras, “On the Scent, #14” (pg. 373)
 - Elizabeth Bachinsky, “For the Pageant Girls” (pg. 223)
 - Patricia Smith, “Hip-Hop Ghazal” (pg. 390)
 - James Tyner, “At a Barbecue for R.C. One Week after He Is Out of Iraq” (pg. 403)
- Grammar: Nouns, Pronouns and Verbs
 - Chapters 6-8 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

Activities:

- Free Verse Poem Workshop

Week 3: The Elements of Narrative (Sept 26-30)

Readings:

- Week 3 Lecture
- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
 - “Character and Setting” (pg. 93)
 - “Scene, Exposition and Reflection” (pg. 106)
 - Raymond Carver, “Chef’s House” (pg. 248)
 - Michael Crummey, “Bread” (pg. 261)
 - Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (pg. 357)
 - Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour” (pg. 253)
- Grammar: Adjectives and Adverbs
 - Chapters 10 and 11 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

****Assignment 1: Free Verse Poem Due****

Week 4: Writing Stories (Oct 3-7)

Readings:

- Week 4 Lecture
- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*:
 - “Writing Stories” (pg. 156)
 - David Foster Wallace, “Incarnations of Burned Children” (pg. 269)
 - Aimee Nezhukumatathil, “The Witching Hour” (pg. 343)
 - Madeleine Thien, “Simple Recipes” (pg. 397)
 - Jeanette Winterson, “The Three Friends” (pg. 411)
- Grammar: Sentences
 - Chapters 3 and 4 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

Activity:

- Flash Fiction Workshop

Week 5: Voice and the Ethics of Storytelling
(Tues Oct 11-14. Thanksgiving Monday—the 10th is a Holiday)

Readings:

- Week 5 Lecture
- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*:
 - “Voice and Perspective” (pg. 119)
 - Patricia Lockwood, “Rape Joke” (pg. 314)
 - Shani Mootoo, “Out on Main Street” (pg. 333)
 - Michael Ondaatje, “The Cinnamon Peeler” (pg. 367)
 - Richard Shelton, “The Stones” (pg. 387)
 - Priscila Uppal, “Sorry I Forgot to Clean Up After Myself” (pg. 404)
- Grammar: The comma, the semicolon and the colon
 - Chapters 15-17 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

****Assignment 2: Flash Fiction Due****

Week 6: Writing Creative Nonfiction
(Oct 17-21)

Readings:

- Week 6 Lecture
- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*:
 - “Writing Personal Essays” (pg. 173)
 - Ivan E. Coyote, “This, That and the Other Thing” (pg. 256)
 - Brian Doyle, “Leap” (pg. 264)
 - Evelyn Lau, “An Insatiable Emptiness” (pg. 301)
 - Donald Murray, “War Stories Untold” (pg. 339)
- Grammar: The dash and parentheses
 - Chapters 17 and 18 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

Activity:

- Flash Creative Nonfiction Workshop

Week 7: Writing Scripts (October 24-28th)

Readings:

- Week 7 Lecture
- Grammar: Common sentence “problems” I
 - Chapters 5a, 5b and 5c of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

****Assignment 3: Flash Creative Nonfiction Due****

*******Fall Reading Week*******

Week 8: Drafting/Capstone Presentation (November 7—11)

Readings:

- Week 8 Lecture
- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*:
 - “Drafting” redux (pg. 36)
- Grammar: Common sentence “problems” II
 - Chapters 5a, 5b and 5c of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

Activity:

- Capstone Presentation

Week 9: Revision/Capstone Presentation (Nov 14-18)

Readings:

- Week 9 Lecture
- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*:
 - “Revision” redux (pg. 48)
- Grammar: Paragraphs
 - Chapter 3 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

Activity:

- Capstone Presentation

Week 10: Experimental Writing (Nov 21-25)

Readings:

- Week 10 Lecture

Activity:

- Capstone Presentation

**Week 11: Publishing/Exam Prep
(Nov 28-Dec 2)**

Readings:

- Week 11 Lecture

Activity:

- Capstone Workshop

**Week 12: Review/Exam Prep
(Dec 5-8)**

Readings:

- Week 12 Lecture

Activity:

- Exam prep

****Assignment 4: Capstone Assignment Due****