

## **Writing 2218F: To Make a Long Story Short (Introduction to Short Fiction)**

**Section:**001

**Time:** Friday 10:30-1:30

**Location:** UC 1220

**Instructor:** Dr. Aaron Schneider

**Email:** [aschneider4@uwo.ca](mailto:aschneider4@uwo.ca) or OWL email

**Office:** UC 2431

**Office Hours:** Monday 9:30-11:30

**Note 1:** office hours will be in-person, but I am happy to meet with you via Zoom.  
Contact me to arrange a meeting.

**Note 2:** if you cannot make the above time, I am happy to meet with you at a different time. Contact me to arrange a meeting.

### **Course Descriptions and Objectives:**

The course is a mixture of the lecture and workshop modes. Lectures will address the various aspects of the short story, and students will workshop their own and others short stories. Students will develop not only fiction writing ability, but also critical reading skills by reading and discussing published short stories and the stories of their peers at the same time that they write two of their own stories. Based on professional models, instructor guidance and class discussion, students will produce two stories of 1500-3000 words in length. Although this course contains lecture elements, it is, at base, a discussion, reading and workshop course, and as a result students must be prepared to participate in the 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, their time and insights. For this reason, attendance is mandatory.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have demonstrated the ability to

1. identify the fundamental elements of the short story;
2. generate ideas for and produce finished pieces of short fiction;
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:

- *After Realism: 24 Stories for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, ed. André Forget. Vehicule Press, 2022.

## Assignments:

### Story 1:

**Draft (10%):** Due the class after the class in which it is workshopped

**Final (30%):** Due week 7

### Story 2:

**Draft (10%):** Due the class after the class in which it is workshopped

**Final (40%):** Due Last Day of Class

**Technique Talk (10%):** Due Weeks 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11

## Assignment Format:

All assignment should be double spaced in a standard font.

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

All written assignments should be handed in in hard copy in class on the date on which they are due, and submitted through OWL for plagiarism checking. Failure to submit a copy through OWL will result in a grade of 0% on the assignment.

Late assignments will receive a penalty of 5% per day.

Late assignments may be through the Department of English and Writing Studies drop box outside of the Department of English and Writing Studies office. If you submit an assignment through the drop box, please make sure that your name, your instructors name, and the course are on the first page of the assignment.

Do not submit assignments through email.

## Attendance policies:

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:**

"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](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.***

### **Prerequisites:**

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 65% in one of [Writing 2101F/G](#), [Writing 2125F/G](#), [Writing 2111F/G](#), [Writing 2130F/G](#) or [Writing 2131F/G](#); or at least 65% in one of [Writing 1000F/G](#), [Writing 1030F/G](#), or [Writing 1031F/G](#); or at least 65% in each of [MIT 1020E](#) (or both of [MIT 1021F/G](#) and [MIT 1022F/G](#)) and [MIT 1025F/G](#); or permission of the Department (consult the Undergraduate Program Director, Writing)

### **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](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](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](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/>

## **Intellectual Property and Copyright:**

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

## **Course Schedule:**

### **Week 1 (September 9, 2022):**

**Topic:** Introduction/What is the short story?

### **Week 2 (September 16, 2022):**

**Topic:** Beginnings and Exposition/Action

**Readings:**

- Paola Ferrante, “The Underside of a Wing” (pg. 91)
- Camilla Grudova, “Madame Flora’s” (pg. 99)
- Rudapriya Rahthore “Girls Who Come in Threes” (pg. 247)
- Ryan Avanzado, “Tita Esme’s Room” (pg. 39)
- Carleigh Baker, “Baby Boomer” (pg. 55)
- Tom Thor Buchanan, “Jamaica” (pg. 63)
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### **Week 3 (September 23, 2022):**

**Topic:** Endings

**Readings:**

- Christine Vadnais, “Creature” (pg. 329)
- David Huebert, “Chemical Valley” (pg. 115)
- Julie Mannell, “Today is Cool” (pg. 170)
- Michael LaPointe, “The Stunt” (pg. 152)
- Review the stories from Week 2

**Activity:** Workshopping Story 1 (1<sup>st</sup> half of the class)

**\*Note: if your story is workshopped in this week, the draft is due in class in Week 4\***

## **Week 4 (September 30, 2022):**

**Topic:** Structure

**Readings:**

- Jessica Johns, “Good Bones” (pg. 140)
- Nabeh Ruthnum, “Eight Saints and Demons” (pg. 270)
- John Elizabeth Stinzi, “Going Toward Gadd” (pg. 287)
- Sofia Mostaghimi, “Roxane and Julieta” (pg. 192)
- Paola Ferrante, “The Underside of a Wing” (pg. 91)
- Eliza Robertson, “The Aquanauts” (pg. 257)

**Activity:** Workshopped Story 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> half of the class)

**\*Note: if your story is workshopped in this week, the draft is due in class in Week 5\***

**\*\*Note: if your story was workshopped in Week 3, the draft is due in class this week\*\***

## **Week 5 (October 7, 2022):**

**Topic:** Setting

**Readings:**

- Christine Vadnais, “Creature” (pg. 329)
- David Huebert, “Chemical Valley” (pg. 115)
- Camilla Grudova, “Madame Flora’s” (pg. 99)
- Fawn Parker, “Wunder Horse II” (pg. 219)

**Activity:** Technique Talks

**\*\*Note: if your story was workshopped in Week 4, the draft is due in class this week\*\***

## **Week 6 (October 14, 2022):**

**Topic:** Voice/Narrator

**Readings:**

- Paige Cooper, “Record of Working” (pg. 69)
- Julie Mannell, “Today is Cool” (pg. 170)
- Gavin Thompson, “Beelzebub’s Kiss” (pg. 309)

**Activity:** Editing Story 1 and Technique Talks

## **Week 7 (October 21, 2022):**

**Topic:** Character

**Readings:**

- Camilla Grudova, “Madame Flora’s” (pg. 99)
- Jessica Johns, “Good Bones” (pg. 140)
- Tea Mutonji, “Property of Neal” (pg. 207)

**Activity:** Technique Talks



**\*\*Story 1 Final Draft Due in class\*\***

**Week 8 (October 28, 2022):**

**Topic:** Dialogue

**Readings:**

- David Huebert, “Chemical Valley” (pg. 115)
- Cason Sharpe, “California Underwater” (pg. 282)
- Michael LaPointe, “The Stunt” (pg. 152)
- Sofia Mostaghimi, “Roxane and Julieta” (pg. 192)

**Activity:** Workshop Story 2 (1<sup>st</sup> half of the class)

**\*Note: if your story is workshopped in this week, the draft is due in class in Week 9\***

**\*\*READING BREAK\*\***

**Week 9 (November 11, 2022):**

**Topic:** Rhythm/Sound

**Readings:**

- Julie Mannell, “Today is Cool” (pg. 170)
- Paola Ferrante, “The Underside of a Wing” (pg. 91)
- Tea Mutonji, “Property of Neal” (pg. 207)
- Jessica Johns. “Good Bones” (pg. 140)

**Activity:** Workshop Story 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> half of the class)

**\*Note: if your story is workshopped in this week, the draft is due in class in Week 10\***

**\*\*Note: if your story was workshopped in Week 8, the draft is due in class this week\*\***

**Week 10 (November 18, 2022):**

**Topic:** Diction

**Readings:**

- Jean Marc Ah-Sen, “Swiddenworld: Selected Correspondence with Tabitha Gotlieb-Ryder” (pg. 19)
- Paige Cooper, “Record of Working” (pg. 69)
- David Huebert, “Chemical Valley” (pg. 115)
- Julie Mannell, “Today is Cool” (pg. 170)
- Tea Mutonji, “Property of Neal” (pg. 207)

**Activity:** Technique Talks

**\*\*Note: if your story was workshopped in Week 8, the draft is due in class this week\*\***

**Week 11 (November 25, 2022):**

**Topic:** Beginnings/Structure/Endings revisited

**Readings:**

- Instructor will indicate what stories to review before class

**Activity:** Technique Talks

**Week 12 (December 2, 2022):**

**Activity:** Editing Story 2

**\*\*Story 2 Due on or before December 8\*\***