

## Writing 1000: The Writer's Studio

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

#### DESCRIPTION

Students are introduced to the creative process of writing through in-class exercises, peer workshop, analysis of creative texts, 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 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, Third Essentials Edition*, by William E. Messenger, Jan de Bruyn, Judy Brown and Ramona Montagnes
3. *Her First Palestinian*, by Saeed Teebi

#### 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: In Fall/Winter 2024, the Exam will be written in-person.\*\***

## Assignment Format

Please submit your assignments in Times Roman font, 12 point in a word document. I will not accept PDF's. Please include your name, course name and number, date and submission title (i.e.: Assignment #1 Free Verse Poem) ALL in the left hand cover of the first page.

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

Attendance Policies Discussion Forum Guidelines:

'The use of racist or any language that works against the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will not be tolerated.'

Note that 'attendance' as defined in this section is mandatory in this course. Failure to meet the minimum posting requirements as defined above for any week where there is Discussion will result in your earned final grade in this course being reduced by 3%. That penalty is cumulative to a maximum of five weeks. Failure to meet the minimum posting requirements for five or more weeks where there is Discussion will result in your earned final grade being reduced by 15%.

**I ENCOURAGE YOU TO POST EARLY IN THE WEEK! I WILL COMMENT ON POSTS DURING THE WEEK, BUT NOT ON THE WEEKENDS!** The Forum is available between Monday 8 a.m. until Sunday at 5 p.m. Forum questions will be based on weekly LECTURES and readings. As an online student, forum posts are your way to engage with the course material and your colleagues—and me! Be engaged! You will get more out of the course if you participate. Get involved, please and thank you!

**\*Note:** Any 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 Western **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.

**With the final draft of each assignment, you must include the following:  
For full explanation see website for Editing rules.**

- 1 page of notes outlining your idea(s)
- An initial draft of the assignment

- A paragraph briefly explaining some of the changes you made between the initial and the final draft.

**1 Page of Notes:**

This is a record of the early stages of your developmental process. It can be an outline, brainstorming ideas, images, words, phrases, etc. that you are considering including in the piece, and so on. It does not need to be grammatically correct or written out in full sentences. It is simply a record of your thought/creative process as you prepare to write the piece.

If you work better in hard copy, then you can take a picture of your hardcopy notes, and paste it into the assignment document.

**Initial Draft:**

This is the first full draft of your assignment. It is a record of where you started the editing process. It will not be graded, and it can contain grammatical, stylistic, and other errors. As well as providing your grader with a touchstone to help them understand and give you feedback on your writing process, the initial draft will help you assess your final draft by looking at the differences between the two and asking yourself questions like, what changes have I made and why? How is the final draft different from the initial draft? And what has the piece gained and lost between the initial and the final draft?