

Writing 2520A: Write Now! Writers on Writing Fall 2024

Course Description and Objectives:

Through a series of lectures by contemporary writers, *Write Now!*, explores the art, craft, and process of creative writing in a variety of genres. Course topics include inspiration, overcoming creative blocks, revision, social media, publishing, literary citizenship, and the writing life.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- 1) identify the fundamental elements of the craft of creative writing
- 2) generate ideas in a variety of genres
- 3) understand concepts relating to contemporary creative writing practices
- 4) execute a dedicated writing practice through weekly writing exercises

Required Texts and Course Materials:

Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief, 3rd Edition by David Starkey, Bedford St. Martin's Press, 2017.

Note: You are not required to buy the books of the authors who present in the course. However, the writers will have copies of their books for sale, and you are encouraged to buy books from the authors you like and connect with. Remember, the best way to support writers and engage with the literary community is to buy and read books.

Course Requirements:

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|-------------------------|-------------|
| Best 3 out of 5 Quizzes | 30% (3x10%) |
| Midterm | 30% |
| Final Exam | 40% |

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively,

they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Assignment Format:

Quizzes, the Midterm and the Final Exam are written answer. The Quizzes and the Midterm are written in class, and the Final Exam is written during the exam period.

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:** 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.