

## Writing 3610F: Creating Youth Writing for Young Adults Fall 2024, Section: 001

**Instructor:** Dr. Miranda Green-Bartteet

**Email:** mgreenb6@uwo.ca

**Office:** UC 4428

**Office Hours:** T 11:30-12:30

**Phone:** 519-661-2111 ext. 84661

**Class Time:** T 1:30-4:30

**Location:** UC 1220

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

### Land Acknowledgement:

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapewak, 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 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 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 and Materials

In addition to the following novels, we will also read secondary source material, which I will post to Brightspace. 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 Hunger Games* (2008), Suzanne Collins

*Carry On* (2015), Rainbow Rowell

*The Sun is Also a Star* (2016), Nicola Yoon

As this is a writing class, we will be completing writing assignments in class. Please bring paper and your preferred writing utensil to class each week. All writing assignments will be submitted to the instructor for feedback.

## Course Requirements

\*Please note that all major assignments will be due on Fridays at Midnight, except for the Revised Novel Chunk and Process Analysis.

Engagement/Workshop Engagement	10%	Ongoing
Short Writing Exercises (Discussion Posts & In-Class)	10%	Ongoing
Short Fiction/Novel Analysis	15%	Due: Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup> @ midnight
Novel Pitch	15%	Due: Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> @ midnight
Novel Chunk	20%	Due: Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup> @ midnight
Revised Novel Chunk and Process Analysis	30%	Due: Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup> @ midnight

**Engagement/Workshop Engagement:** 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, in-class writing, and workshopping will comprise a large part of class, 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.

Students are required to complete an Engagement Achievements Worksheet throughout the term and to submit it electronically by the last day of class. Students who do not submit the Worksheet will receive a 0 for participation.

Students are expected to actively participate in writing workshops. We will have a minimum of 3 writing workshops during the semester. Students will be placed in groups by the instructor, and students will receive detailed instructions for submitting drafts of writing projects to OWL to facilitate sharing information with their groups.

**Short Writing Assignments:** You will complete several short writing assignments over the semester. About half of these will be completed in-class and half will be completed as Discussion Posts. We will review a detailed prompt for these.

**Novel Analysis/Short Fiction:** You will complete either a short fiction assignment or a novel analysis

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. A detailed prompt is available in OWL.

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.

## Course Policies

### Discussion Guidelines

We will cover a variety of topics pertaining to young adult literature. Among other topics, we will consider how race, class, gender, sex, and sexuality are presented within the genre. Some of the materials we will consider may include topics that may be difficult to read about and to discuss. Ensure you are comfortable discussing this potentially sensitive material. Additionally, this class is a space in which students are free to express their views, to post questions, or to raise issues without reprisal.

Students should also feel free to address any topics in their written projects, taking care to do so within the parameters of the genre. If a writing project contains scenes of a sensitive or upsetting nature, I expect students to prepare their peer review groups.

### 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 be courteous and kind and 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.

**OWL/Brightspace:** The use of OWL/Brightspace 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 through OWL/Brightspace. 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. Note: all email communication to me should be respectful in tone. Be sure to include an appropriate subject line—e.g., Missing Class, Oct. 13 or Extension Request for Novel Chunk.

**Assignment Format, Submitting Assignments, Late Submission**

All assignments are due on the date stated on the class schedule. The following assignments must be submitted to Brightspace as .doc or .dox files: Short Fiction/Novel Analysis, Novel Pitch, Novel Chunk, and Revised Novel Chunk and Process Analysis. Do not submit PDFs. Some Short Writing Exercises will be completed through Brightspace, and some will be completed in class. All in class assignments must be handwritten on paper and submitted to the instructor upon completion.

It is your responsibility to submit assignments on time. ***Late papers will not be accepted.***

Note: If you need an extension, email me 48-hours before the assignment is due to request an extension. You do not need to share with me the intimate details of your life. That information is none of my business, and you should never have to disclose private information to get support. If you feel compelled to offer a reason for requesting an extension, I encourage you to be creative (e.g., your cat vomited on your rough draft or you're a Marvel super-villain who is planning an inter-galactic heist and need more time to plan.)

**Attendance policies**

Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. Here is the Writing Studies attendance policy in this class:

- The very nature of this course requires you attend regularly to do well. You are expected to come to class, and you are expected to participate class and workshops as well as complete in-class writing assignments. Should you need to be absent, notify me as soon as you know you will be away. If you miss more than 2 classes (e.g., the equivalent of two weeks of class), I reserve the right to deduct 10% off your final grade (e.g., an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).

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 your instructors.

**Note:** a class meeting missed 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 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.

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>."

**Note:** you may not submit any work for this class that you have submitted for another class.

"In this course, the use of AI (such as automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited, unless there has been discussion with and agreement by the instructor before beginning an assignment. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and/or other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them."

### **Prerequisites**

"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 prerequisites for this course are: **Prerequisite(s):** At least 65% in one of [Writing 2101F/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).

## Antirequisites

[Writing 2291F/G](#) if taken in 2020-21, 2021-22, or 2022-23.

## Academic Consideration Policy

“University policy on academic considerations is described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests through the Student Absence Portal, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar’s webpage:

[https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/index.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html)

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation, which may include a Student Medical Certificate. Recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation.”

## 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.

**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](#).

## Statement on Gender-based Sexual Violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

**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/>

