Western Arts&Humanities

Department of English and Writing Studies

WRITING 2226G: OUT OF THE BOOK – CONTEMPORARY EXPERIMENTAL WRITING

Winter 2023
Section: # 001

Course Description and Objectives

In this experimental creative writing course students use a variety of media, online platforms, and source material to create innovative projects that challenge traditional modes of literary expression. They will be introduced to experimental writers/artists— Marcel Duchamp, Kathy Acker, NourbeSe Phillip, Jordan Abel, etc. Assignments will incorporate the use of experimental techniques such as transcription, redaction, sampling, erasure, rearrangement, chance, constraint, and borrowing.

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

- communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably; orally and in writing to a range of audiences;
- identify the fundamental elements and key concepts of conceptual writing and experimental writing in multiple genres;
- research, analyze, and respond critically to published works through weekly responses, class discussion, and assignments
- provide peers with critical feedback on their creative assignments;
- collaborate on creative performance project; and
- incorporate feedback into assignments.

Required Texts and Course Materials

All readings are accessible for free via **Course Readings** on our OWL page.

Course Requirements

METHOD OF EVALUATION	GRADE VALUE	DEADLINE
Experimental Prose Assignment	30%	Week 5
Literary Manifesto Presentation	25%	Weeks 9, 10
Cut-up/Glitch/Remix Assignment	10%	Week 7
Open Form Project (includes artist description, research, project notes)	35%	Week 12
Total	100%	

Assignment Format

Assignments must be submitted both as a printed hardcopy and to electronically via OWL (Word doc). Printed written assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, and stapled. **All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and instructor's name on the first page**. When using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA standards for documentation, as detailed in *The Canadian Writer's Handbook* section 37A. Each assignment will have unique formatting specifications. Please see the Assignments Module on OWL for detail relevant to each assignment.

Submitting Assignments/Due dates/late submission penalties etc.

In this course you will be required to submit the final version of each of your assignments

electronically, through OWL to turnitin.com and provide your instructor with a hard copy in class the day the assignment is due.

Late assignments will receive a penalty of 5% per day. To qualify for an extension, you must have a valid reason and contact your instructor prior to the deadline. Please see the medical accommodation policy below.

If necessary, please submit essays to the Writing Department Drop Box outside Lawson Hall Room 3270, making sure you include your instructor's name and your section number. However, do not (a) fax assignments or (b) e-mail assignments. Keep copies (electronic, paper, or both) of all assignments submitted.

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).
- 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 <u>are more than 20 minutes late</u>, 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.'

<u>Note</u>: a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of 'make-up class' in another course ***<u>will</u>*** count as non-attendance, and ***<u>will</u>*** attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at the University of Western Ontario ***<u>shall not require</u>*** 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 ***<u>your</u>*** 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

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."

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

"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."

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).

Antirequisites

Antirequisite(s): Writing 2295G if taken in 2012-2013 or 2013-2014.

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/

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.

Class Meeting Schedule

Date	**Topic**	**Readings** (Note: Most readings are only 1-3 pages in length**)**	**Exercise**
Week 1 Introduction	**Greeting and Intro to Course Syllabus** -What is Experimental Writing? -What is the Avant-Garde? -What is Experimental Reading?	N/A	Introductions
Week 2 Foundations of Experimental Writing: The Modernists (Cubism, Italian Futurism, Russian Futurism, Dada)	**-What is Modernism?** -The Four Major Experimental and Iconoclastic Movements -**Techniques**: Collage, Automatic Writing, Stream of Consciousness, Free Indirect Verse, Chance, Sound Poetry	**Non Fiction** 1. F.T. Marinetti – "The Foundation and Manifesto of Futurism" (1909) 2. Hugo Ball – "Dada Manifesto" (1915) **Fiction** 1. Velemir Khlebnikov – "Invocation by Laughter" (1908) 2. Tristan Tzara – "How to Make a Dadaist Poem" 3. Max Ernst – "The Old Vivisctionist" (1921) 4. André Breton – "All that is Mysterious"	**Writing Exercise and Workshop** Dadaist Writing or Words in Freedom
Week 3	**What is Surrealism?**	**Fiction**	**Writing Exercise and Workshop**

Surrealism: Gazing Outward with One Eye and Inward with The Other	**Techniques** -Annihilation of Identity -Automatic Writing -Reenchanted Objects -Paranoiac Method -Echo Poems -Simulation -Chain Games -Surrealist Definitions	1. André Breton and Philippe Soupault - Excerpt from *The Magnetic Fields* (1920) 2. Aimé Césaire – "Serpent Sun" (1943) 3. Franz Kafka – Excerpt from *The Metamorphosis* (1915) 4. Leonora Carrington – "The House of Fear" (1938) 5. James Joyce – Excerpt from *Finnegans Wake* (1939)	-Individual writing exercise: Automatic Writing -Collective chance writing exercise: Surrealist Definitions
Week 4 -OULIPO: Constraint and Combinatorial Writing -Détournement	**Part 1: Constraint and Combinatorial Writing** OULIPO – Strict and Rigid Writing Constraints **Part 2: Experimental Writing and the Image** -Détournement (Highjacking popular images/phrases) -Calligrams and Concrete Poetry -Writing *as* Image	**Fiction** 1. Raymond Queneau – "100,000,000,000,000 Poems" (1961) 2. Georges Perec – Excerpt from *A Void* (1969) 3. Guillaume Apollinaire – "Landscape" (1918) 4. Christian Bök – "Crystal Lattice" (2003) 5. Various Examples of Détournement (see Week 4 PowerPoint Slides)	**Writing Exercise and Workshop** Constraint and Combinatorial Writing Exercise Or Détournement Exercise
Week 5 Postmodernism **ASSIGNMENT 1 – DUE**	**Part 1: What is Postmodernism?** Techniques: -Hyperreality and Simulation -Intertextuality -Metafiction and Meta-Identities **Part 2: Language is a Virus** -The Cut-up	**Fiction** 1. William Gibson – Excerpt from *Neuromancer* (1984) 2. Jorge Luis Borges – "Borges and I" (1960) 3. William S. Burroughs – "Operation Rewrite" Excerpt from *The Ticket that Exploded* (1962) 4. Kathy Acker – Excerpt from *Blood and Guts in High School* (1978)	**Writing Exercise and Workshop**
Week 6	**The Theatre of the Absurd (Film, Stage, Absurdism in literature)**	Readings/Screens: See OWL	
Week 7 **CUT-UP/GLITCH/REMIX ASSIGNMENT DUE**	**The Manifesto** **GROUP WORK**	Readings: 1. F.T. Marinetti – "The Foundation and Manifesto of Futurism" (1909) *(Revisited)*	**Workshop**

		2. Hugo Ball – "Dada Manifesto" (1915) *(Revisited)* 3. Jeff Noon – "Avant-Pulpism" (2018)	
Week 8	**Xenopoetics – Contemporary speculative experimental writing**	Readings available on OWL	**Question Period, Discussion, and Workshop**
Week 9	**Pitch Presentations/Manifestos**		**Question Period, Discussion, and Workshop**
Week 10	**Pitch Presentations/Manifestos**		**Question Period, Discussion, and Workshop**
Week 11	**Workshop for Capstone Assignment**		**Double Workshop**
Week 12 **OPEN FORM PROJECT DUE**	**Workshop for Capstone Assignment** Where/how to Publish Experimental Fiction? Wrap-up		