

**Writing 1000F:
The Writer's Studio
Fall 2025**

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**DESCRIPTION**

Students are introduced to the creative process of writing through in-class exercises, peer workshop, and analysis of creative text. 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; and
4. incorporate feedback into revisions.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS

Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology by Nancy Pagh (\$63.20 hard copy/\$43.00 eBook)

ASSIGNMENTS:

Free Verse Poem (Week 4):	10%
Flash Fiction (Week 6):	10%
Flash Creative Nonfiction (Week 8):	10%
Capstone Assignment (Week 12):	40%
Exam:	30%

****Note: In Fall/Winter 2025, the Exam will be written in-person.****

No aids are permitted for the final exam. Electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones, and smart watches) are not permitted.

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

No title page required. Times Roman font, doubled spaced, pages numbered. Course name, section and student NAME on the top left of the page. No PDF's please. Word documents only.

Submitting Assignments/Due dates/late submission penalties etc.

Peer editing: You will notice that every assignment requires a first draft, which will be used for online editing purposes *except the food report. The first due date is when the peer edit draft is due. Every peer edit workshop requires **THREE** copies of your work. The purpose of this is to mimic the editor and writer relationship that exists in a 'real world' scenario. Editing and rewriting are critical to improving and sculpting a story for publication. As an editor, you will learn to critique and help shape fellow students' work and as a writer, you must get used to adopting and/or rejecting editing comments and concerns. This work will be done in-class; therefore, if you're absent, this will reflect on your participation mark.

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.

Attendance Policies

Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. I don't like to penalize late assignments; however, since one of the purposes of this course is to familiarize you with the writing profession, you need to know that deadlines are crucial. For this reason, all assignments will be due on the date specified unless you negotiate an extension at least 48 hours in advance. Following any other policy would be an injustice to you as a future writer.

Assignments are submitted electronically. Late assignments will be penalized at 3 marks per day, including weekends.

Obviously we do not meet formally as a "class" in a Distance Studies course. Therefore "attendance" and participation on the Discussion Board are intertwined. Distance Studies classes are generally self-paced, so you must attend class (defined as logging into our OWL section) and participate by introducing yourself, and posting questions and thoughts each week based on the given week's set discussion topic) **at least two times weekly**. This means at least two separate

posts per week (a week is defined as running from Monday to Sunday), at least one of which must be a “new” post rather than just a reply to someone else’s.

Extended absences, defined as a failure to post into the OWL classroom for more than five consecutive days, must be coordinated with the instructor.

Postings on the Discussion Board must have the following characteristics:

Must contribute something meaningful to the Board; Must support your opinion with sufficient reasons or evidence; Must display good grammar and organization.

Postings should not:

Contain disrespectful or insulting language; Be excessively long or excessively short; Be unrelated to the week’s topic; Say things that do not contribute anything, e.g. “I agree with you” or “nice comment”. I will track your postings to the discussion Board, and it will be part of your 5% Online Discussion/ Exercises/Workshopping mark indicated above. Failure to meet the minimum posting requirements **may result in your final grade in the course being reduced by 10%** (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).

Although this is an online course, you are expected to check into the OWL site on a regular basis, to read the material and your fellow students’ comments, participate in online discussions and to interact online with your fellow classmates by workshopping your drafts as much as online allows you. This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. 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.

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