

**Writing 2520A:  
Write Now!: Writers on Writing  
Fall 2025**

**Section:** 001

**Instructor:** Dr. Aaron Schneider

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Though 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**

There is no textbook for this course. The core material of the course is presented in the lectures, and, most importantly, in the presentations given by the visiting speakers. So, students need to be prepared to attend lectures regularly, listen carefully, and take detailed notes.

**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.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

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

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**

The quizzes and the midterm will be written in class. The quizzes will be written on Mondays, and the midterm on a Wednesday (see the class schedule below for the specific dates).

The quizzes will consist of one question about the material from a recent lecture or visiting speaker talk. The midterm will be 2 hours long, and it will focus on the content of the lectures and speaker talks. It may also contain questions that ask students to reflect on their engagement with the course and their own writing practice.

The exam will be 3 hours long and it will be written during the exam period. Like the midterm, the questions will focus on the content of the lectures and speaker talks, and ask students to reflect on their engagement with the course and their own writing practice.

Note: the focus of the assignments on content presented in class is why attendance is particularly important.

## Attendance policies

As noted above, the primary content of this course is presented in class in the form of lectures delivered by the professor and talks given by visiting speakers. For this reason, attendance is essential. Importantly, attendance extends not only to being present in class, but also to paying consistent attention to and taking notes on what is being said.

The primary mechanisms by which attendance is evaluated in this course are the quizzes, the midterm, and the exam. If you want to do well on them, you need to come to class, pay attention in class, and take notes on what you are hearing.

**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.

## 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>.

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.

## 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.

**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/>

## **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.

