

**Writing 2218G:
To Make a Long Story Short
(Introduction to Short Fiction)
Winter 2025**

Course Descriptions and Objectives:

The course is a mixture of lecture and workshop modes. Lectures will address the various aspects of the short story, and students will workshop their own and others short stories. Students will develop not only fiction writing ability, but also critical reading skills by reading and discussing published short stories and the stories of their peers at the same time that they write two of their own stories. Based on professional models, instructor guidance and class discussion, students will produce two stories of 1500-3000 words in length. Although this course contains lecture elements, it is, at base, a discussion, reading and workshop course, and as a result students must be prepared to participate in the workshop process: peer evaluation, editing, drafting, discussion topics, etc. In a writing workshop, one learns to write for others besides oneself—to respect one's readers, their time and insights. For this reason, attendance is mandatory.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. identify the fundamental elements of the short story;
2. generate ideas for and produce finished pieces of short fiction;
3. analyze and respond critically to published writing and the work of their peers;
4. identify and correct errors in composition, grammar, and mechanics; and
5. incorporate feedback into revisions.

Required Textbooks:

- *After Realism: 24 Stories for the 21st Century*, ed. André Forget. Vehicule Press, 2022.
 - \$22.95. This is required for the course, and you will need it for the Technique Talk assignment.

Assignments:

Story 1:

Draft (10%):

Due the class after the class in which it is workshopped

Final (30%):

Due week 7

Story 2:

Draft (10%):

Due the class after the class in which it is workshopped

Final (40%):

Due Last Day of Class

Technique Talk (10%):

Due Weeks 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

Assignment Format:

All assignments should be double spaced in a standard font.

Submitting Assignments/Due dates/late submission penalties etc.:

All written assignments should be handed in in hard copy in class on the date on which they are due, and submitted through OWL for plagiarism checking. Failure to submit a copy through OWL will result in a grade of 0% on the assignment.

Late assignments will receive a penalty of 5% per day.

Late assignments may be through the Department of English and Writing Studies drop box outside of the Department of English and Writing Studies office. If you submit an assignment through the drop box, please make sure that your name, your instructors name, and the course are on the first page of the assignment.

Do not submit assignments through email.

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.