

Public Description Version

Writing 1000F: The Writers' Studio — Public Course Outline (Fall 2026)

Instructor: Miguel Antonio Chávez

Section: 005

Course Description

Students are introduced to the creative process of writing through in-class exercises, peer workshop, and analysis of creative text. The course develops strategies for idea generation across genres, drafting, revision, and effective editing and proofreading. Students also learn to analyze published writing and respond constructively to peer work.

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

Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology by Nancy Pagh
(\$64.25 hard copy / \$44.00 eBook)

Assignments and Weighting

Free Verse Poem — 10%

Flash Fiction — 10%

Flash Creative Nonfiction — 10%

Capstone Assignment — 40%

Final Exam — 30%

****Note: In Fall/Winter 2026, 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

Please submit all assignments to OWL Brightspace as Word (.docx) files; **no** PDFs or other formats will be accepted. Prose assignments must be double-spaced, and poetry must be single-spaced, using Times New Roman, 12-point font for both. Screenplay or script-based work should follow standard formatting: Courier New, with clearly separated scene descriptions and dialogue. On the first page for every assignment, center your name, course name, section number, and instructor's name.

For source documentation (if applicable) and document format, you will be expected to follow the conventions of MLA style. All details relevant to each writing project will be posted on the OWL site ahead of the due date.

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

The final versions of each of your assignments must be submitted through OWL Brightspace to turnitin.com. No printed copies are required. However, be aware that you are responsible for keeping backup copies of all submitted work. Occasionally, handwritten drafts/exercises composed in class may be collected.

Assignments are due on the dates indicated in the weekly schedule. ***Late work will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day***, unless a written extension has been approved by the instructor in advance. You must contact the instructor prior to the deadline and provide a legitimate reason for the request.

Classroom Policies & OWL Brightspace

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Attendance policies

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

If you miss nine unexcused hours of class (the equivalent of up to three full weeks of class), your final grade will be reduced by 10 marks (e.g., an earned final grade of 80% will be reduced to a final grade of 70%; a grade of 70% will be reduced to 60%).

If you miss a total of more than nine unexcused hours of class (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class meetings) your final grade will be reduced by 15 marks (e.g., an earned final grade of 80% will be reduced to a final grade of 65; a final grade of 70 will be reduced to 55).

This policy will be waived only if you have either undocumented or documented academic consideration. You may only use the undocumented consideration option once each term. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you must discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, and submit documentation to support your request for academic consideration. (See Academic Consideration 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.