

Writing 1000: The Writers' Studio
Fall/Winter 2026**Section: 651****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 (\$64.25 hard copy/\$44.00 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 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

Times Roman, 12 point. Please no PDF's. PDF's will not be marked. Include assignment notes and the assignment in one document. Do not submit two documents.

Attendance policies

This is an online course with no scheduled class, and no penalties for missing class. However, it is your responsibility to stay engaged with the course by regularly logging in to OWL to read the weekly lectures and stay abreast of assignments and forums. You are also required to regularly participate in OWL FORUM workshops (see syllabus for workshop dates) where you will give and receive feedback on drafts of your creative pieces. Lecture #1 outlines how the forums will be organized. Lecture #2 includes instructions on how to give and receive constructive feedback on creative works. A penalty of 10 marks per assignment will be deducted for any student who does not post an assignment for workshopping and/or does not provide feedback to the other students in their workshop group for that particular assignment (e.g., an earned assignment grade of 80% will be reduced to 70%; a grade of 70% will be reduced to 60%).