

**Writing 2218F:
To Make a Long Story Short
(Introduction to Short Fiction)
Fall 2026
Section 001**

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.
- *Best Canadian Stories 2026*, ed. Zsuzsi Gartner, Biblioasis, 2025.
 - \$24.95. This is required for the course, and you will need it for the Technique Talk assignment.

Assignments:

Story 1:

Draft (15%):	Due the class after the class in which it is workshopped
Final (30%):	Due week 7

Story 2:

Draft (15%):	Due the class after the class in which it is workshopped
Final (40%):	Due Last Day of Class

Technique Talk

Value (0%):	Weeks 5-12
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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.

Email Policy:

I respond to email in one working day. You can email me at aschnei4@uwo.ca. I do not respond to email on the weekend.

Please note that UWO Instructors can respond only to UWO e-mail addresses.

Classroom Technology Policy:

The use of technology, such as laptops, phones and tablets, is permitted for taking notes, workshopping stories, and other classroom activities, but not for recording lectures, workshops or any other classroom activity. Sharing work can be a vulnerable experience, and students should feel comfort doing it with the understanding that they are not being recorded in any form at any time. For this reason, all recording with the exception of the recording of lectures for accessibility reasons is forbidden.

Students are encouraged to take notes, workshop stories and do readings in hardcopy. This is not a requirement, and there is no penalty for using electronic devices to do any or all of these tasks. However, research increasingly shows that we learn better, read more attentively and retain more of what we hear and read when we work with paper rather than with screens. You will have a better learning experience, and an overall better experience in this course if you limit your engagement with technology in the classroom and when reading course texts.

Brightspace:

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.

Prerequisites:

Ensuring you have the correct prerequisite(s) is your responsibility. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The prerequisite for registration in this course is:

At least 65% in one of [Writing 2101F/G](#), [Writing 2125F/G](#), [Writing 2111F/G](#), [Writing 2130F/G](#) or [Writing 2131F/G](#); or at least 65% in one of [Writing 1000F/G](#), [Writing 1030F/G](#), or [Writing 1031F/G](#); or at least 65% in each of [MIT 1020E](#) (or both of [MIT 1021F/G](#) and [MIT 1022F/G](#)) and [MIT 1025F/G](#); or permission of the Department (consult the Undergraduate Program Director, Writing).

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: 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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf#Policy

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, students are permitted to use AI tools for information gathering and preliminary research purposes **only** (unless otherwise indicated in the assignment instructions). These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. It is essential, however, that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize, develop, and articulate their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, but students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism in any form. Note that for all assignments completed outside of class, the instructor can require you to attend an in-person interview to discuss your work and/or to review research notes, rough drafts, outlines and other materials used in preparing the assignment before a mark is finalized. Assignments should always reflect students' own thoughts and constitute independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, supports independent inquiry, and encourages original written contributions

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

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

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.

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.

Other Student Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdwweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/index.html>

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.