

## Writing 1000G: The Writers' Studio

Winter 2026

Section # 003

**Instructor:** David Barrick

### 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 (\$63.20 hard copy/\$43.00 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 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.

#### Assignment Format

All assignments must be submitted to the OWL Brightspace site as Word files (docx); **no** PDFs or other file formats accepted. Make sure that prose assignments are double-spaced and that

poetry assignments are single-spaced. Include your name, course name, section number, and the instructor's name on the first page. 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

***In this course, you will be required to submit the final version of each of your assignments electronically through OWL Brightspace to turnitin.com.*** No print copies are necessary. However, be aware that you are responsible for keeping backup copies of all assignments submitted. Occasionally, handwritten drafts/exercises composed in class may be collected.

Assignments are due on the date specified in the weekly schedule (below). **Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day unless you have received an extension.** You must contact your instructor about extensions ahead of the due date and provide a valid reason; extensions are not automatic and cannot be granted retroactively.

## OWL 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 (phone: 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800).

## 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 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.

**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.