

**Writing 1000G 652
The Writer's Studio
WINTER 2026**

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 Fall/Winter 2025, 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

Assignments must be submitted electronically via our Writing 1000 Brightspace Page. Assignments (except poetry) are to be typed, double-spaced, and stapled. **All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and instructor's name on the first page.** When using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA standards for documentation, as detailed in *The Canadian Writer's Handbook* section 37A. Each assignment will have unique formatting specifications. Please see the Assignments Module on OWL for detail relevant to each assignment.

Submitting Assignments/Due dates/late submission penalties etc.

In this course you will be required to submit the final version of each of your assignments electronically, through Brightspace to turnitin.com.

Assignments must be submitted by midnight on the day the assignment is due.

Please DO NOT email a copy of your assignment to the professor's faculty email address.

Late assignments will receive a penalty of 5% per day. To qualify for an extension, you must have a valid reason and contact your instructor prior to the deadline. Please see the medical accommodation policy below.

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% will be assessed to any student who does not post an assignment for workshopping and/or does not provide feedback to the other students in their workshop group.

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: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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, the use of AI (such as automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited, unless there has been discussion with and agreement by the instructor before beginning an assignment. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and/or other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

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. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

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/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

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

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

(Jan 5-11)

(note: While classes technically begin on Thursday Sept 4, we'll formally start on Monday Sept 8)

Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
 - “Why I Write?” (pg. 19)
 - “Practicing Perception” (pg. 25)
 - “Drafting” (pg. 36)
 - “Revision” (pg. 48)

Week 2: Poetry I

(Jan 12-18)

Readings

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
 - “Image, Detail and Figurative Language” (pg. 67)
 - “Writing Poems” (pg. 139)
 - Kelli Russel Agodo, “Geography” (pg. 207)
 - Stephanie Bolster, “Many Have Written Poems about Blackberries” (pg. 242)
 - Sandra Cisneros, “My Wicked Wicked Ways” (pg. 255)
 - T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (pg. 265)
 - Mallory Opel, “Among the Blossoms” (pg. 368)
 - Nancy Pagh, “Love Song: After T.S. Eliot” (pg. 370)

Week 3: Poetry II

(Jan 19-25)

Readings

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
 - “Sound” (pg. 80)
 - “Writing Poems” (pg. 139)
 - Elizabeth Bachinsky, “For the Pageant Girls” (pg. 223)
 - Natalie Diaz, “My Brother at 3 A.M.” (pg. 262)
 - Emily Dickinson. “I started Early—Took my Dog—” (pg. 263)
 - Sina Queyras, “On the Scent, #14” (pg. 373)
 - Patricia Smith, “Hip-Hop Ghazal” (pg. 390)
 - James Tyner, “At a Barbecue for R.C. One Week after He Is Out of Iraq” (pg. 403)

Activity:

- Free verse poem workshop

Week 4: Fiction I

(Jan 26 – Feb 1)

Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
 - “Character and Setting” (pg. 93)
 - “Scene, Exposition and Reflection” (pg. 106)
 - Raymond Carver, “Chef’s House” (pg. 248)
 - Michael Crummey, “Bread” (pg. 261)
 - Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour” (pg. 253)
 - Kristiiana Kahakauwila, “Thirty-Nine Rules for Making a Hawaiian Funeral into a Drinking Game” (pg. 194)

****Assignment 1: Free Verse Poem Due****

Week 5: Fiction II

(Feb 2 – 8)

Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*

- “Writing Stories” (pg. 156)
- Aimee Nezhukumatathil, “The Witching Hour” (pg. 343)
- Madeleine Thien, “Simple Recipes” (pg. 397)
- David Foster Wallace, “Incarnations of Burned Children” (pg. 269)
- Jeanette Winterson, “The Three Friends” (pg. 411)

Activity:

- Flash Fiction Workshop

Week 6: Creative Nonfiction I

(Feb 9 – 13)

Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*:
 - “Writing Personal Essays” (pg. 173)
 - Ivan E. Coyote, “This, That and the Other Thing” (pg. 256)
 - Brian Doyle, “Leap” (pg. 264)
 - Evelyn Lau, “An Insatiable Emptiness” (pg. 301)
 - Donald Murray, “War Stories Untold” (pg. 339)

READING WEEK

(No classes on FEB 14 – 22)

Week 7: Creative Nonfiction II

(Feb 23 – Mar 1)

Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*:
 - “Voice and Perspective” (pg. 119)
 - Alfred Taiaiake, “What I Think of When I Think of Skin” (pg. 208)
 - Patricia Lockwood, “Rape Joke” (pg. 314)
 - Sonja Livingston, “The Ghetto Girls’ Guide to Dating and Romance” (pg. 311)
 - Shani Mootoo, “Out on Main Street” (pg. 333)
 - Michael Ondaatje, “The Cinnamon Peeler” (pg. 367)
 - Richard Shelton, “The Stones” (pg. 387)
 - Priscila Uppal, “Sorry I Forgot to Clean Up After Myself” (pg. 404)

Activity:

- Flash Creative Nonfiction workshop

****Assignment 2: Flash Fiction Due (Week 7)****

Week 8: Scripts I
(Mar 2 – Mar 8)

Readings:

- *Pixar's Piper*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIPV1iwzrzg>
- *Cargo*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyfmwgOV6uo&t=141s>
- *I Really Like You*: <https://vimeo.com/groups/732802/videos/91054893>
- *Porcelain Unicorn*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRMcPJrWm-g&t=6s>
- *Lights Out*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUQhNGEu2KA&t=2s>
- *Presentation*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Vq4Nf-zJoc>

Week 9: Scripts II
(Mar 9 – Mar 15)

Readings:

- Review the films from last week

Week 10: Editing
(Mar 16 – Mar 22)

Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*:
 - “Revision” redux (pg. 48)

****Assignment 3: Flash Creative Nonfiction Due****

Week 11: Review/Editing/Exam Prep
(Mar 23 – Mar 29)

Readings:

- Re-read the Week 10 lecture on editing

Activity:

- Capstone Workshop

Week 12: Publishing/Exam Prep
(Final Week plus a few bonus days to catch up)
(Mar 30 – Apr 5
and
Apr 6 – Apr 9)

Activity:

- Exam prep
- Write a third person bio
- Write 2-4 writing prompts

****Assignment 4: Capstone Assignment Due****