



Writing 3901F: You're a Strange Animal: Writing Nature, Writing the Self

Section: 001

Time/Room: AHB-3R07 Mon 12:30-3:30

Instructor: Dr. Tom Cull

Email: tcull3@uwo.ca

Office: 3270 Lawson Hall

Office hours: Wed 12:00-2:00

Break free of technology to become creative!

To provide the best learning experience for you and to encourage your creativity, all writing exercises will be created with pen and paper, both of which you should bring to each class. A small note pad or writing booklet for taking notes when we are on field trips is highly recommended.

DESCRIPTION

Nature is a slippery fish. In this course, we will use poetry, fiction and non-fiction to capture (and release) some of the fundamentals of nature writing. We will write about nature, in nature. Campus will be our classroom. We will spend about half of our time exploring natural (and not so natural) features of Western Campus: hissing geese, tree species, birds of prey, groundhogs, creepy-crawlies, green spaces, parking lots, taxidermized animals in the basement of Natural Science, the river, the food court, the football field. In effect, we will become literary naturalists; we will learn to pay attention to nature, and think about how it may be captured—and released—through literature. You will need the following: notepad, pen, sturdy footwear, a sense of adventure.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have demonstrated the ability to

1. identify fundamental elements and themes of nature writing;
2. generate ideas in a variety of genres: poetry, fiction, creative non-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

Writing about Nature: A Creative Guide, Revised Edition by John A. Murray, 2003 (available at The Bookstore at Western)

Course Requirements

Image Poem	15% (Sept 25)
Flash Fiction	15% (Oct 23)
Creative Non-Fiction	15% (Oct 30)
Exercises Portfolio	

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

In this course you will be required to submit the final version of each of your assignments electronically, through OWL to turnitin.com and provide your instructor with a hard copy in class the day the assignment is due.

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.

If necessary, please submit essays to the Writing Department Drop Box outside Lawson Hall Room

on the request directly, or refer the student to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an 'Attendance' policy in the course). All medical documentation must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's home Faculty.

"Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help."

Special Requests: Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing
Please refer to the "Information for All Students in a Writing Course" for more detailed information. Briefly, remember that your instructor does not have the discretion to initiate, consider, or grant (or not) such requests; you must go directly to the Dean's office of your home faculty.

Class Meeting Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Focus	Readings/Topics
Week 1 Sept 11	Introduction to Class: What is Nature? What is Nature Writing? Class trip: Forest Bathing Writing Exercise: Images	Pick up Text book at the Bookstore Poems: Hoar Frost: https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/hoar-frost March Evening: https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/march-evening Wild Geese: https://goo.gl/yeJ9Da

Week 4 Flash Fiction: Class
Oct 2 Visit—

Week