



Department of English and Writing Studies

## **3902G: Hitting the Right Notes: Lyric Writing**

Winter 2018

**Section 001**

**M 12:30 – 3:30pm, AHB-3R07**

**Instructor: David Barrick**

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**Office: Lawson Hall 3270**

**Office hours: M & TU 3:30 – 4:30pm**

### **Course Objectives**

This course introduces students to the basics of effective lyric writing in several forms/genres using tools such as prosody, sensory images, repetition, fictional persona, and narrative forms. After analyzing the work of accomplished songwriters, students will workshop their own lyrics while building towards a thematically coherent final project.

## Assignment Format

All assignments must be typed and stapled; make sure that prose assignments are double-spaced and that verse assignments are single-spaced. All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and the instructor's name on the first page. Whenever using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA style.

## Submitting Assignments

Assignments are due in-class on the date specified on the schedule. **Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day unless I have granted you an extension.** You must talk to your instructor about extensions ahead of the due date; they are not automatic.

In this course you will be required to submit the final version of each of your written assignments electronically, through OWL, to Turnitin.com. If necessary, please submit assignments to the Writing Office Drop Box outside Lawson Hall 3270, making sure you include your instructor's name and the course code. However, do not fax or email assignments. Also, be aware that **you are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments submitted. Make sure to back up all of your files regularly.**

## 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) 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



Studies requires students in these circumstances to follow the same procedure when seeking academic accommodation on non-medical (i.e. non-medical compassionate or other) grounds.

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth less than 10% of their final grade** must also apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Where in these circumstances the accommodation is being sought on **non-medical grounds**, students should consult in the first instance with their instructor, who may elect to make a decision 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

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| Week 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The album as thematic unit</li> <li>-Alternative approaches to lyric writing</li> <li>-Lyric worksheets</li> <li>-Visit from CHRW recording engineer</li> </ul> | <p><b>WBL:</b> Ch. 4 (33-46)<br/> <b>SOS:</b> Paul Simon interview (p. 87-122)<br/> <i>Week #7 Playlist (YouTube)</i><br/> Album: <i>Graceland</i> by Paul Simon<br/> CHRW recording handout</p> |
| Week 8 | <b>Oral Presentations</b>   | <p><b>SOS:</b> Leonard Cohen interview (p. 329-349)<br/> Album: <i>Nebraska</i> by Bruce Springsteen</p>   |
| Week 9 | <b>Oral Presentations</b>   | <p>Album: <i>The Suburbs</i> by Arcade Fire</p>  |