



Title: *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*
Author: Messenger, de Bruyn, et al.
Publisher: Oxford
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“An introduction to the basic principles and techniques of good writing, the course will emphasize practical work and the development of writing skills for a variety of subjects and disciplines.” By “practical work” this course description from the calendar means to indicate that you will spend much of your time in this course writing, responding to the writing of others, and revising your work in light of the responses you receive to it. The focus in this course will be to have you engage in both the production of written texts and also develop a critical eye for examining the written texts of others, both professionally written and written by others in the class you are in.

The course description from the calendar also points to the development of writing skills in “a variety of subjects and disciplines.” While it would simply not be possible to study and write in all the genres that are used across a complex university such as Western, you will be asked to write in more than one genre. When you do so, pay attention to the rules/constraints of that genre and study how those rules give you clues to what is regarded as “good writing” for the genre you are writing in. Try to develop a conscious awareness (metaknowledge) about the rules for writing well and how they shift depending of the context for writing.

More generally, the course aims to contribute to your development of an “ability to communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably, orally and in writing, to a range of audiences” (Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents’ statement on ‘University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations,’ 24 October 2005).

Essay 1: Rhetorical Analysis (20%)	Rough Draft: End of Week 2 Final Draft: End of Week 4
Essay 2: Informative Essay (30%)	Rough Draft: End of Week 6 Final Draft: End of Week 8
Essay 3: Researched Argument (40%)	Rough Draft (partial if need be): End of Week 10 Final Draft: Last day of class
Discussion Boards (10%) in Forums	Ongoing

Essays are to be typed and double-spaced i

discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation. That advisor may then contact all of your instructors. See also: 'Medical Accommodation Policy' below.

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