



## WRITING 2211F 650: THE NAKED WRITER: FUNDAMENTALS OF CREATIVE WRITING DISTANCE STUDIES

**PROFESSOR:** David Barrick  
**OFFICE HOURS:** By email/appointment

**EMAIL:** [dbarric@uwo.ca](mailto:dbarric@uwo.ca)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

#### DESCRIPTION

Students will explore the fundamentals of creative writing and challenge their creativity through the writing of fiction/literary non-fiction, poetry, and drama. In a workshop setting, students will share their work and provide critical feedback on the work of their peers. Use of basic elements such as image, dialogue, character, voice, plot, theme, and setting will be discussed. Students will consider technique, inspiration, influence, revision, and process through reading, writing, and workshop participation.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- identify the fundamental elements of creative writing (plot, character, dialogue, etc.);
- analyze published fiction, poetry, and drama;
- write in three genres;
- provide classmates with critical feedback;
- incorporate class feedback into revisions.

#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Custom Course Pack available at [The Book Store At Western](#)

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Method of Evaluation	Grade Value	Due Date
Poem	15%	Unit 3 Final Draft
Creative Nonfiction	20%	Unit 4 Group Workshop Unit 6 Final Draft
Short Story Workshop Draft	10%	Units 7-10
Revision Assignment with Revision Notes	35%	Units 7-10 Full Class Workshop Unit 12 Final Draft
Peer Workshops	20%	Ongoing
	100%	

#### ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

All assignments must be word-processed in a 12-point font; single space your poetry and double space your prose. The title of your assignment, your name, the course, and my name must appear in the top right-hand corner. Please include page numbers, and submit assignments to OWL as Doc files only.

#### SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due 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, nor will they be granted retroactively.

In this course, you will submit the final version of all written assignments electronically (*Doc files only*), through OWL, to Turnitin.com. No hard copies are required. Do not fax or email assignments; do not drop off assignments anywhere on campus. Also, be aware that you are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments submitted.

### **WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS/PARTICIPATION**

This course is entirely online and asynchronous, so you will be required to participate in weekly OWL discussion forums. These mandatory class discussions are based on the weekly readings and function as the equivalent of class attendance.

**NOTE: the use of racist or any language that works against the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will not be tolerated.** Before posting, please review all your discussion comments to ensure that they are respectful and appropriate.

### **OFFICE HOURS/E-MAIL POLICY**

This term, I will not be holding in-person office hours. Instead, I will be answering course questions and offering additional clarification/help through email. I respond to e-mails within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me in 48 hours, please resend your message. I do not check e-mail on the weekend.

### **STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

Students experiencing general difficulty with the course material may contact the [Student Development Centre](#) for counselling and tutoring services, as well as writing consultation. The Student Development Centre also has staff members who specialize in assisting students with various disabilities to adjust to the university environment. Please advise me at the beginning of the term if you have any special needs.

### **SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES, INCLUDING PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate requires the following statements, and Web site references, to appear on course outlines:

ously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[h](#)

## **ACCOMMODATION POLICIES**

**Note: the official Western Accommodation Policy appears below. This is in effect, but may be modified temporarily by the university during the academic year as conditions change.**

Stude

**SPECIAL REQUESTS: Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing**

Please refer to your instructor 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 your home faculty.

**WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE**

UNITS	UNIT FOCUS	READINGS
<p><b>UNIT 1</b> (Weds September 9<sup>th</sup>) Monday Sept 14, 2020</p>	<p>Discussions: Introductions and Why Write? Assignment: Image Poem Writing Exercise #1: Images</p>	<p><u>Online Readings:</u> Online Etiquette and Importance of Images, Poetry Assignment, Discussion Assignment, Syllabus, Introduction to Instructor, Information for Students in a Writing Course <u>Course Pack:</u> _____ and _____ by Stephen Minot</p>
<p><b>UNIT 2</b> Monday Sept 21, 2020</p>	<p>Discussion: Simile &amp; Metaphor Writing Exercise #2: Simile &amp; Metaphor</p>	<p><u>Online Readings:</u> Figurative Language, Teach Us to Numb _____ by Rita Dove, Peer Workshop Assignment <u>Course Pack:</u> _____ Oliver; _____ nc _____ I sit on the portab _____ Burnet Smith _____ by Gary Soto</p>
<p><b>UNIT 3</b> Monday Sept 28, 2020</p>	<p><b>Image Poem Due (15%)</b> Assignment: Creative Nonfiction Discussion: Creative Nonfiction (Compare &amp; Contrast) Writing Exercise #3: Bad Behaviour</p>	<p><u>Online Readings:</u> interview with Joan Didion in <i>The Paris Review</i>; David Sedaris and His _____ in <i>Slate Magazine</i> by Jack Shafter, Creative Nonfiction Assignment</p>

Monday Oct. 26, 2020	Discussion: _____ and _____	<u>Course Pack:</u> _____ y Shirley Jackson;  Hodgins _____ Heather Sellers from <i>The Practice of Creative Writing</i>
<b>November 2-8</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>	<b><u>No Assigned Readings</u></b>
<b>UNIT 8</b> Monday Nov. 9, 2020	Class Workshop: <b>Short Story Draft (10%)</b>	<u>Online Readings:</u> Explore the online journal <a href="#">Joyland: A Hub for Short Fiction</a>
<b>UNIT 9</b> Monday Nov. 16, 2020	Class Workshop: <b>Short Story Draft (10%)</b>	<u>Online Readings:</u> Explore the online journal <a href="#">Drunken Boat</a>
<b>UNIT10</b> Monday Nov 23, 2020	Class Workshop: <b>Short Story Draft (10%)</b>	<u>Online Readings:</u> Explore the online journal <a href="#">Electric Literature</a>

**UNIT 11**