

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 265.01

WINTER 2018

INTRODUCTORY CREATIVE WRITING

TUESDAY/THURSDAY: 8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Tuesdays: SCIENCE THEATRE 141

Instructor: Aritha van Herk

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Phone: 403 220-5481

E-mail: vanherk@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: 9:30 to 11:00, Tuesdays

15:30 to 17:00, Wednesdays

Homepage/course website: <http://english.ucalgary.ca/profiles/aritha-van-herk>

Personal website: <http://www.arithavanherk.com>

S01	Thursdays, 8:00-9:15 CHE 202	Hong Nguyen Sears; hong.ngyuensears@ucalgary.ca Office: SS1009
S02	Thursdays, 8:00-9:15 EDC 276	Neil Surkan; neil.surkan@ucalgary.ca Office: SS1033
S03	Thursdays, 8:00-9:15 ST 027	Chris Brown, christopher.brown1@ucalgary.ca Office: SS1117
S04	Thursdays, 8:00-9:15 SA 125	Mikka Jacobsen, mikka.jacobsen@ucalgary.ca Office: SS1033
S05	Thursdays, 8:00-9:15 EEEL 151	Isabelle Groenhof, Isabelle.groenhof@ucalgary.ca Office: SS1137
S06	Thursdays, 8:00-9:15 EDC 172	Paul Meunier, pnmeunie@ucalgary.ca Office: SS1133

Course description:

This course provides instruction in the rudiments of technique and craft for prose, poetry, and drama, emphasizing the centrality of reading and revision to literary composition. Students will be introduced to the basic tools and elements of creative, literary writing.

The textbook for this course offers a practical guide for these foundational elements, providing background, basic knowledge, and scope for exercises to be discussed and

evaluated in seminars.

The course is divided into three areas, covering pivotal techniques of writing prose, poetry, and drama.

Tuesday lectures will introduce students to the different aspects of each genre, as well as key considerations for effective craft and competence, as well as discussion of the material in the text.

Thursday seminars will focus on discussion of student writing, conducted according to the workshop model. All students are expected to engage in productive, meaningful discussion about writing assignments, using the lessons learned from initial lectures. 10% of your grade takes into account the quality of your contribution to the experience of the workshop through your preparation, attendance, and discussion over the course of the term.

Objectives:

By the end of this course students will have:

- practiced writing in these three genres;
- begun to develop their individual writing practice;
- begun to develop a honed understanding of how language, image, description, dialogue and narrative work
- begun to develop critical tools with which to analyze writing.

Students do not need to have written anything prior to taking this course. However, the course presumes that students are interested in writing, and that they will seriously undertake to learn by doing. Dedicated creation and editorial revision, as well as close reading are essential for success in this class.

Note: ENGL 265 does NOT count toward the designation of a “Creative Writing Concentration” on the student’s transcript. ENGL 265 is intended for students planning to pursue further courses in Creative Writing, and the overall objective is to provide students the opportunity to discover the extent of their interest in writing in these literary genres.

Texts and readings:

Imaginative Writing, by Janet Burroway (Pearson)

ISBN 13-978-0-13-405324-0

This Text is required.

A comprehensive dictionary and thesaurus, beyond Urban Dictionary and Wiktionary, are recommended.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Workshop Participation (discussion and critical acumen in seminars): 10%

Overall Participation (includes on-time submission of material for seminars, and lecture and workshop attendance): 5%

Prose writing (2 stories or narratives): 15%

Poetry writing: (6 poems) 15%

Drama writing: (2 dramatic scenes) 15%

Final portfolio of NEW work including prose, poetry and drama (maximum of 20 pages):
40%

TOTAL 100%

****NB There is NO FINAL EXAM in this class.**

****NB Students must complete ALL assignments to receive a passing grade.**

Late Assignments or Absences:

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day (not class) that the assignment is overdue.

All assignments are due via D2L EXCEPT the final portfolio, which must be submitted in hard copy (printed) form. Please give this final portfolio directly to Professor van Herk. (If it is entirely impossible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the Dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep copies and backups of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Grading System:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

Assigning grades for creative work is difficult, but this is an academic course, and must fulfill academic requirements. Your final grade will consist of an evaluation of all the work you perform and hand in. All assignments are graded (using the letter system) and returned to you.

Your attendance and engagement are part of your participation grade. You are expected to

attend both lectures and seminars, and to use what you learn in the lectures to contribute to your workshop contributions.

Following is a description of how grades in English 265 are derived.

A-/A/A+: Consistently exceptional work

The work is moving toward publishable level. Use of language is concise and precise; figures of speech are imaginative and original; the content is interesting, the approach is fresh, and the form chosen the best possible, every element engaged with sophistication and elegance. A+ is a grade earned only in very rare instances, by work that is absolutely stellar.

B+/B/B- range: Consistently good work

The work is good, above average, but could use more refinement or development, and usually more revision. It shows at least in part a heightened use of language, several striking aspects of imagery or story, and an interesting perspective or point of view. Word choice and description are generally exact and thoughtful.

C+/C/C- range: Consistently average work

The work is satisfactory, but relies on ordinary use of language, and is not formally innovative. The writing is competent and shows promise, but definitely needs more work and greater focus. Images or plot are sound but may verge on the clichéd and predictable. Vocabulary is adequate but may be limited.

D range: Minimal pass

The work shows some effort but is carelessly constructed and may have grammatical problems. Use of language is undistinguished and clichéd; ideas are ordinary.

F: No Credit

Work shows no effort or is flippant; no work has been done at all, or is entirely clichéd or derivative.

The University of Calgary's official four-point Undergraduate Grading System, as described in the Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>), will be used in this course.

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Guidelines and Policies

Electronic Devices:

We are at the mercy of social networking, cell phones, text messages and e-mail, but in this class we need to concentrate on writing. You may take notes and work on a laptop in class but you are NOT to surf the net, text message your friends, play games, or do assignments for a different class. Cell phones or portable media players are to be turned off in class.

E-mail Questions:

I check and answer e-mail regularly, usually within 48 hours; however, do not expect me to reply to a query within minutes.

Food, Drink, etc.:

Because this is an early morning course, students may drink coffee or water or juice in class; however, I would request no consumption of food.

How to do well in this course:

1. Class attendance is required. You will have difficulty passing this course if you do not attend, if you do not write regularly, and if you do not read (for the seminars) your colleagues' work with care and diligence.
2. If you are to make good progress, it is essential that you set aside time for writing every day. It is unwise to try to write three poems the night before they are due. Students who work steadily throughout the term perform better than students who binge-write. Special pleading (dry spells or broken fingers) is not countenanced: writing is a matter of discipline, not excuses. However, if you are ill or are experiencing other difficulties, do let me know so that appropriate accommodation can be made for your circumstances.
3. The work you submit to the seminars must be typed, double-spaced, with at least 1 inch margins, and must use a clear font so that it can be read easily. Ensure that your name is on your submission and that the pages are numbered in sequence. **All writing must be submitted online using D2L dropbox and in a PDF file.**
4. This course is an introduction to literary writing, not a course in how to get published or what is trendy. We are more concerned with writing than we are with its marketing.
5. Students are asked to resist handing in genre writing, meaning fan fiction, crime, zombie, fantasy, horror, romance, science fiction or inspirational writing. This is a course in literary writing, and replicating the conventions of popular forms will not stretch your literary muscles. We offer an advanced course in genre writing where you can engage with those challenges.
6. The schedule for this class, as the attached outline makes clear, sometimes varies. A class may be cancelled or moved, but it will always be replaced, if not by a class, then by a literary event. Please use the schedule to plan and to make effective use of your time.
7. Students often labour under the misguided notion that they do not wish to be "influenced" and that reading outside material or participating in the literary life of the

community is not relevant. In fact, literary events provide students with invaluable inspiration and experience. You are expected to attend at least one reading and you are expected to read widely.

8. Class participation (discussion) in the seminars is a requirement, part of the graded component of this course.

9. The work that is circulated in your seminar deserves your full attention. However, it does NOT deserve the attention of your cousins, roommates, or friends. Please keep your colleagues' work confidential, and treat it with respect, as you would wish your writing to be treated. Commenting on your colleagues or their work on social media is ethical misconduct.

10. Work is to be discussed in the seminars with intelligence, using literary terminology. See Guidelines for in-class discussion.

11. If you are having difficulties of any kind, or if you have questions, please feel free to meet with your seminar instructor or with me. If you cannot make an appointment during my regular office hours, I am happy to arrange to meet at another time. Do not hesitate to inform me of potential difficulties because I may be able to help you solve them.

Guidelines for in-class discussion in seminars:

Students will be marked for the quality of their engagement with the class, receiving merit for the insightfulness of their observations and the thoughtfulness of their contributions. The seminars provide an opportunity for students to offer responses and to pose critical questions. Students are marked not only upon the quality of each submission, but also upon their ability to incorporate commentary into their practice so as to improve their work throughout the course of the term.

From the language that holds sway in daily conversation and from our abbreviated texting language, a nuanced vocabulary may seem archaic, but is increasingly desirable. The current reliance on “thing,” “you know,” and “like” are especial markers of a lazy tongue. A key objective of this class is a focus on improving your eloquence and wit by moving beyond such limited vernacular. Please take notes on our discussions of oral fixatives, and add your favourites to the list as the year progresses.

In terms of evaluative positions and their critical expression, your personal tastes are a less useful benchmark than objective appreciation. When reading any text, the questions you must confront are not whether or not you “liked” the material, but whether it is convincing, effective, and interestingly developed within the writing, with reference to literary elements. If you determine that some aspect of the writing works well, explain what and why. And if you find some aspect of the story does not work well, explain what and why. Abusive or personal comments will not be tolerated.

Learning is about confronting uncomfortable ideas. At some point during this class, we are likely to encounter sensitive material, material that will challenge your thinking or upset your expectations. These challenges are about enhancing your clarity and capacity for critical thinking.

Guidelines for submission of work in seminars:

Seminars are structured as workshops, intended to provide feedback to students scheduled to have their assignments discussed by their peers.

All work discussed in the seminar must be submitted one week prior to its scheduled workshop. All assigned readings are mandatory for the course. Students must complete ALL assignments over the term, responding to feedback from comments by classmates so as to improve their writing, which should be evident in the final portfolio submission of new work to Professor van Herk.

Each exercise is due by the start of class, one week in advance of the seminar that discusses this material so that students in the workshop have time to read the work of their peers for commentary. All work must be posted online so as to be available to the other participants in the seminar.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events <http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>. Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboymd@ucalgary.ca. Find The English Pages research guide here:

https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

Student Accommodations:

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The student accommodation policy can be found

at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with

Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate

the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),

(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,

(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,

(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.