

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 265 Lec 01
INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

Fall 2012

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 14:00 – 15:00

Course Description:

This course will provide instruction in the rudiments of craft for creative writing in various genres, emphasizing the centrality of reading and revision to literary composition. The overall course objective is to provide the opportunity for students to discover the extent of their interest in writing creatively, whether in traditional literary or other emerging genres.

Instruction in the larger Tuesday lecture will introduce elements of craft, including discussion centered on published texts and the techniques that make these texts effective. The Thursday Tutorial component of this course will be conducted on the seminar/workshop model for analysis and discussion of student writing, particularly the assigned exercises. It should be noted that, because these smaller groups are still quite large, they cannot function as regular workshops, discussing each individual students' work in detail and regularly. They will, however, give students who are considering continuing on, a sense of how creative writing workshops do operate in higher level courses.

Although the course will not count toward a "concentration in creative writing" designation on a student's transcript, the class should result in a much stronger portfolio for use in applying to intermediate and advanced writing classes.

Students do not need to have written anything prior to taking this course. The course aims to encourage and support everyone from the casual journal writer who may never have discussed writing in a public way, to the budding poet or fiction writer.

Texts and readings

Texts for discussion will be provided in class and electronically. They will include a number of poems, as well as the following longer texts:

Harold Pinter's play *The Dumb Waiter*

Ambrose Bierce's short story "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge,"

Joyce Carol Oates "How I Contemplated the World from the Detroit House of Correction and Began My Life Over Again"

Raymond Carver's "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love"

Participation in the Writing Workshop (Tutorial Groups):

The workshop is a chance to enhance not only your writing skills, but also your reading and editing abilities. The workshops will require students to submit and discuss written exercises and assignments, and to receive oral peer feedback in class. Participation is important to ensure a successful workshop; this means that all students must come to class with their completed

exercises, having read assigned texts, and prepared to provide thoughtful responses to each other's work.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Readings will be assigned for most classes and these must have been read before we discuss them in class. In addition to material for workshoping, students must submit one poetry assignment containing 5 to 8 poems, one 1600 word (approximately 5 pages) fiction assignment, and a final major rewrite/portfolio of approximately 10 pages.

The specific apportioning of grades for the class is as follows:

Participation (includes workshop submissions and attendance)	10%
Poetry assignment (8 poems or 5 to 8 pages) due Thurs., 11 October 2012	15%
Fiction assignment (1500 words) due Thurs., 15 November 2012	15%
Assigned Exercises	15%
Final Portfolio assignment due Thursday, 06 December 2012 (10 pages in any genre[s] + previous drafts with instructor comments + process statement)	45%

There is no final exam in this course.

KEEP ALL DRAFTS OF ALL EXERCISES AND ASSIGNMENTS IN THIS COURSE.

Revision and rewriting are an important part of the creative writing process, and is part of your evaluation in this course. Additionally, it is good practice for tracking your own progress as a writer. Students must hand in earlier drafts with the instructor's comments along with rewrites and final assignments.

Ensure that your name is on your submissions and that the pages are numbered in sequence. Electronic submissions are NOT permitted. All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade on the course. Course assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class, on the due date, and in printed form, unless other specific arrangements have been made. In particular, submitting work by email without prior agreement is not an acceptable alternative to handing in work on time, in class. 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.

*Please make every effort to take assignments directly to your workshop instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox with your name and your workshop instructor's name clearly legible. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. **It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.***

Email and Electronic Submissions Policy:

I will reply as promptly as possible, usually within a week, to short, specific questions via email. However, I cannot guarantee that you will have a reply within a specific amount of time. If you have detailed questions on the course material, please see your tutorial instructor or me during office hours, or make an appointment to see me personally in my office.

Grading system:

The following grading system is used in this course:

%	Number grade	GPA
89.5-100%	A+	4.00
84.5-89.4%	A	4.00
78.5-84.4%	A-	3.70
76.5-78.4%	B+	3.30
73.5-76.4%	B	3.00
69.5-73.4%	B-	2.70
66.5-69.4%	C+	2.30
62.5-66.4%	C	2.00
59.5-62.4%	C-	1.70
56.5-59.4%	D+	1.30
51-56.4%	D	1.00
00-50.9%	F	0

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-2-1.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/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is smrwc@ucalgary.ca.

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>.

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>

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>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

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>.

Academic accommodation:

It is a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

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 Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@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>

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.