

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 698, A & B

F/W, 2016-17

COURSE TITLE: GRADUATE COURSE, THE BOOK-LENGTH MANUSCRIPT

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I. Course description:

English 698 is a course intended to offer the advanced writing student an opportunity to work intensively toward completion of a book-length prose manuscript. Students at this level must be comfortable with the various elements and theories of narrative and the development of a sustained investigation, and should be prepared to work creatively and imaginatively in applying those theories to their own writing, as well as to their colleagues' writing. Participants are also expected to read widely as part of their background work, and to engage with literary events (e.g. the Calgary Distinguished Writers readings).

This course requires students to work toward completion of a book-length prose manuscript. Each student who has been given permission to register in this class will already have a substantial amount of writing toward his/her project, and will begin by bringing to the class a description of the particular project s/he wishes to undertake over the course of the year. This project might consist of a short novel, a collection of short stories, a novella, a series of interconnected tales, a prose-poem, a work of prose non-fiction, or a work of ficto-criticism. Genre is not a rigid consideration, but the object of this course is to enable each student to realize his/her particular project to the greatest possible configuration. This course requires critical acumen, editorial focus, and an enormous amount of writing and reading. Students must be prepared to read and critique approximately 1800 pages of workshop material.

Students will prepare an in-class presentation on the writerly aspects of one text relevant to their project; written portion of that assignment will be handed in as a critical paper.

Initial Reading List (subject to change)

Julian Barnes, *Flaubert's Parrot*. (ISBN: 9780099540083).

Frederick Busch, *A Dangerous Profession*, 1999. (ISBN: 9780767903981).

Marian Engel, *Bear*. (ISBN: 9780771093791).

Robert Kroetsch, *A Likely Story*. Red Deer Press, 1995. (ISBN: 9780889951037).

Helen Humphries, *The Frozen Thames*. (ISBN: 9780771041457).

Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir Of The Craft*.

Francine Prose, *Reading Like A Writer: A Guide For People Who Love Books & For Those Who Want to Write Them*, 2007. (ISBN: 9780060777050).

Additional works relevant to the project of each member of the class will be assigned.

III. Assignments and Evaluation:

Writing (Minimum 150 pages toward a complete book): 60%

Editing, analytical skills, critiques: 20%

Presentation + written appraisal: 10%

Participation: 10%

TOTAL 100%

There will be NO final exam in this course. Students will be given graded feedback on each piece of work, and an overall graded evaluation at Christmas.

English 698: The Book-Length Manuscript

Application Form, DUE AUGUST 10, 2016

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Student ID#: _____

email: _____

List previous English courses that may relate, and Course instructor:

List all previous Creative Writing courses (including non-credit), grades, and instructor:

Please attach a portfolio of **30 pages (double-spaced)** of writing toward your proposed book-length project, with a one-page description of that project, and a list of writing credits (publications).