

**Writing 1000G (001): The Writer's Studio**  
**Winter 2025**

*Western University is located on the lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee,  
Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES****DESCRIPTION**

Students are introduced to the creative process of writing through in-class exercises, peer workshop, analysis of creative texts, and a review of grammar, mechanics, and composition. Students learn strategies for idea generation in a variety of genres, composing a first draft, approaching revision, and effective editing and proofreading techniques.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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

1. identify the fundamental elements of creative writing;
2. generate ideas in a variety of genres: poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, drama/screenwriting
3. analyze and respond critically to published writing and the work of their peers;
4. identify and correct errors in composition, grammar, and mechanics; and
5. incorporate feedback into revisions.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

1. *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*, by Nancy Pagh (\$60.20)
2. *The Canadian Writer's Handbook, Third Essentials Edition*, by William E. Messenger, Jan de Bruyn, Judy Brown and Ramona Montagnes (\$45.85)
3. *Her First Palestinian and Other Stories*, by Saeed Teebi (\$22.99)

Students are welcome to purchase second hand or earlier editions of these books.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Free Verse Poem (Week 3, Jan. 22)	10%
Flash Fiction (Week 5, Feb. 5)	15%
Flash Creative Nonfiction (Week 7, Feb. 26)	15%
Capstone Assignment (Week 12, Apr. 2)	40%
Exam (exam period)	20%

## Assignment Format

All projects must be typed; make sure that prose assignments are double-spaced and that poetry assignments are single-spaced. All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and the instructor's name on the first page. For source documentation (if applicable) and document format, you will be expected to follow the conventions of MLA style.

## Assignment Guidelines

Will be handed out in class and posted on Brightspace.

**Exam information:** This will be an in-person exam, held during the April examination period. No aids are permitted for the final exam; electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, laptops, cell phones, and smart watches) will not be allowed.

## Submitting Assignments/Due dates/late submission penalties etc.

Assignments are due on the date specified in the weekly schedule. **Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day unless you have been granted an extension.** Extensions from me will be **at most 2 days**; longer extensions will require official accommodation (see guidelines below). You must talk to me about extensions *ahead* of the due date and provide a valid reason; extensions are not automatic and cannot be granted retroactively.

In this course, you will be required to submit the final version of each of your written assignments electronically (*.doc files only*), through Brightspace, 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, as well as any notes and drafts.

## Classroom Policies & OWL Brightspace

You will be expected to read all the chapters assigned from your textbook before coming to class. This is an active learning environment, so be prepared to participate in discussions.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL [Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk (phone: 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800).

## Technology Use

Please keep this classroom a low technology zone. During class discussions, I will request that laptops remain closed. Bring your textbooks to class, along with paper and pens for notetaking. You may use laptops or tablets for in-class writing if you prefer, and during workshops, when relevant. Cellphones and other gadgets should be silenced and put away.

## Office Hours/E-mail Policy

I check email on a regular basis Monday to Friday and will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. I will always reply to your email, so if you haven't heard back from me, please send your email again. Please do not expect an immediate response on weekends.

## Course Ethos

Our class will honour the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We will use each other's preferred and chosen names and pronouns; we will engage in respectful and generous conversation with each other; we will avoid language that is hurtful, violent, or exclusive. My goal is to create an atmosphere of trust, community, and mutual responsibility, where each of us can feel heard and respected. Please feel welcome to contact me with any concerns you might have during this class.

## Attendance Policies

'Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. Here is the Writing Studies attendance policy in this class:

- You may miss up to three hours (the equivalent of one week of class) of class meetings during the term without explanation. That means that the first three class hours you miss will be recorded as absences but *excused provided you don't miss any more*.
- However, if you miss a total of four to nine class hours (the equivalent of up to three full weeks of class), your final grade will be reduced by 10% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).
- If you miss a total of more than nine hours of class meetings (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class meetings) your final grade will be reduced by 15% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 68). This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have good reasons for waiving an absence of one class meeting (e.g. if you've missed three hours, and need or want to miss another class meeting) discuss these reasons with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should 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: '**Academic Accommodation**' below.

**Attendance also extends to tardiness.** If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be penalized an hour of attendance. Please make every effort to be on time as late entry can disrupt the flow of discussion in our class. Early departures from class, which have not been previously arranged with the instructor, will also be counted as an absence. If you leave during the break, you will be docked an hour of attendance.'

**\*Note:** Any class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of 'make-up class' in another course **will** count as non-attendance and **will** attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at Western **shall not require** a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict with that student's other scheduled class times. If you are asked or 'required' to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counsellor in your Dean's office. If you elect to miss a class in order to write such a test, that is **your** choice; your absence will not be excused.

## Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, which can be found here:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently Western and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

In this course, the use of AI (such as automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT, etc.) is **prohibited**, unless there has been discussion with and agreement by the instructor before beginning an assignment. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and/or other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

Assignments should always reflect students' own thoughts and constitute independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, supports independent inquiry, and encourages original written contributions.

**In short, please do not use AI to generate rough (or any) drafts of creative assignments.**

## Academic Accommodation

University policy on academic considerations is [described here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests through the Student Absence Portal, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

[https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/index.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html)

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation, which may include a Student Medical Certificate. Recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request without supporting documentation in this course.

Individual instructors **will not under any circumstances** accept or read medical documentation directly offered by a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical

grounds or for related reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an 'Attendance' policy in the course). **All medical documentation must** be submitted following the protocol described above.

**Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education** (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

**Students who are in emotional/mental distress** should refer to MentalHealth@Western: (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519-661-3030 (during class hours) or 519-433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.

### **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

### **Statement on Gender-based Sexual Violence**

Western is [committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Other Student Support Services**

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

### **Intellectual Property and Copyright**

All instructor-written materials (e.g., PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1 (Jan. 8): Introduction to the Course

#### Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
  - “Why Write?” (pp. 19-23)
  - “Practicing Perception” (pp. 25-33)
  - “Image, Detail and Figurative Language” (pp. 67-77)
  - Stephanie Bolster, “Many Have Written Poems about Blackberries” (p. 242)
  - T. Alan Broughton, “Song for Sampson” (p. 243)
  - Maria Hummel, “I’m This Many” (p. 286)

### Week 2 (Jan. 15): The Elements of Poetry

#### Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
  - “Sound” (pp. 80-90)
  - “Writing Poems” (pp. 139)-150
  - “Revision” (pp. 48-59)
  - Kelli Russel Agodo, “Geography” (p. 207)
  - Barbara Hamby, “Ode to My 1977 Toyota” (p. 276)
  - Langston Hughes, “Harlem (2)” (p. 285)
  - Mallory Opel, “Among the Blossoms” (p. 368)
  - Simon Ortiz, “My Father’s Song” (p. 369)
  - Sylvia Plath, “Mirror” (p. 373)
- **Grammar:** Nouns, Pronouns and Verbs
  - Chapters 6-8 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

#### Activities:

- Free Verse Poem Workshop (mandatory draft)

### Week 3 (Jan. 22): The Elements of Narrative

#### Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
  - “Character and Setting” (pp. 93-102)
  - “Scene, Exposition and Reflection” (pp. 106-116)
  - Arlan Cashier, “Lost Sweater” (pp. 251-252)
  - Raymond Carver, “Chef’s House” (pp. 248-251)
- *Her First Palestinian*
  - “The Body” (pp. 59-92)
  - “The Reflected Sky” (pp. 165-184)
- **Grammar:** Adjectives and Adverbs
  - Chapters 10 and 11 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

**\*\*Assignment 1: Free Verse Poem Due on Brightspace at Midnight\*\***

## Week 4 (Jan. 29): Writing Stories

**\*\*Saeed Teebi class visit: 1:30-2:30\*\***

### Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
  - “Writing Stories” (pp. 156-172)
  - Denis Johnson, “Steady Hands at Seattle General” (pp. 287-89)
  - Jeanette Winterson, “The Three Friends” (pp. 411-12)
- *Her First Palestinian:*
  - “At the Benefit” (pp. 121-133)
  - “Woodland” (pp. 135-164)
- **Grammar:** Sentences
  - Chapters 3 and 4 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

### Activity:

- Flash Fiction Workshop (mandatory draft)

## Week 5 (Feb. 5): Voice and the Ethics of Storytelling

### Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
  - “Voice and Perspective” (pp. 119-132)
  - Reinaldo Arenas, “The Downpour” (p. 222)
  - Joy Harjo, “Suspended” (p. 280)
  - Aimee Nezhukumatathil, “The Witching Hour” (pp. 343-345)
  - Bethany Yeager, “Divorce” (pg. 413-414)
- *Her First Palestinian:*
  - “Do Not Write About the King” (pp. 13-40)
- **Grammar:** The comma, the semicolon and the colon
  - Chapters 15-17 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

**\*\*Assignment 2: Flash Fiction Due on Brightspace at Midnight\*\***

## Week 6 (Feb. 12): Writing Creative Nonfiction

### Readings:

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
  - “Writing Personal Essays” (pp. 173-86)
  - Ivan E. Coyote, “This, That and the Other Thing” (pp. 256-259)
  - Brian Doyle, “Leap” (pp. 264-265)
  - Patricia Hampl, “Red Sky in the Morning” (pp. 277-280)
- **Grammar:** The dash and parentheses
  - Chapters 18 and 19 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

### Activity:

- Flash Creative Nonfiction Workshop (mandatory draft)
- Sign up for capstone presentations (Weeks 7, 8, 9)

**\*\*Winter Reading Break Feb. 17-21\*\***

### **Week 7 (Feb. 26): Drafting/Capstone Presentation**

#### **Readings:**

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
  - “Drafting” (pp. 36-47)
- **Grammar:** Common sentence “problems” I
  - Chapters 5a, 5b and 5c of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

#### **Activity**

- Capstone Presentation

**\*\*Assignment 3: Flash Creative Nonfiction Due on Brightspace at Midnight\*\***

### **Week 8 (March 5): Drafting/Capstone Presentation**

#### **Readings:**

- *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology:*
  - “Revision” redux (pp. 48-59)
- **Grammar:** Common sentence “problems” II
  - Chapters 5a, 5b and 5c of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

#### **Activity:**

- Capstone Presentation

### **Week 9 (March 12): Revision/Capstone Presentation**

#### **Readings:**

- **Grammar:** Paragraphs
  - Chapter 2 of *The Canadian Writer’s Handbook*

#### **Activity:**

- Capstone Presentation

### **Week 10 (March 19: no class, conference)**

#### **Activity:**

- Use this time to work on your capstone project in preparation for the workshop next week

### **Week 11 (March 26): Publishing/Editing/ Capstone Workshop**

#### **Activity:**

- Capstone Workshop (mandatory draft)

### **Week 12 (April 2): Review/Editing/Exam Prep**

#### **Activity:**

- Exam prep

**\*\*Assignment 4: Capstone Assignment Due on Brightspace at Midnight\*\***