

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: THST 2920	Course Title: Elements of Creative Writing	Date of Offering: F21
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Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert	Course Format: lecture/discussion, readings of student work
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course invites students to explore fundamental elements of creative writing. The focus will be threefold. First we will ponder the relationship of didacticism and art— our sources will include Noh Theatre, Shakespeare, and the writings of Theodore Adorno. Does creative writing have a twofold purpose — to teach and to delight? Secondly our focus will be on genre; we will discuss fiction, creative non-fiction, autofiction, poetry, plays, and letter writing. What is the reason for genre categories, and how can thinking about genre be useful for us (and not)? Last but not least, the primary purpose of this course is to give students an array of tools to choose from in their creative writing. This course does not offer a specific path to becoming a writer; it instead provides students with information that will be helpful on their journey. To this end, students will be exposed to a wide variety of (short) reading material — most of it creative writing in various genres — including (but not limited to) writings by — Maria Irene Fornes, Amiri Baraka, Aristotle, Shakespeare, Roland Barthes, Ernest Hemingway, Samuel Delaney, Shani Mootoo, Lynn Crosbie, Jacque Prevert, Frank O'Hara, Karl Ove Knausgaard, Angel Day, Lajos Egri, and Sheung-King. The structure of the classes will follow this format: one lecture/discussion class followed by a class in which student work is read aloud for discussion. Students will have the opportunity to practice creative writing and improve their skills in critical reading in a supportive atmosphere.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

15% — 3 x two page exercise (early part of semester)

35%. —7 x three to five page exercises (second half of the semester)

10% — video monologue (due in the class after reading week)

25% — 20 page portfolio to include excerpt from a large work, a complete large work or many smaller ones

15% Participation

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

See above: sources will be available on the internet

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.