

Carleton University
Winter 2025 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 1500B: Introduction to Creative Writing

No Prerequisites

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****** This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.
A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. ******

Course Description: This introductory course welcomes students of any academic discipline or level interested in creative writing. Students who have experience writing independently, in workshops, or have taken writing courses such as “The Writer’s Craft” are just as welcome as students who have never written creatively but are curious to try. Over the semester, students will engage with exemplary texts by published writers in such genres and forms as short stories, personal essays, and free-verse poetry. Students will also write creatively in workshops and independently throughout the term and workshop their writing with small peer-editing groups.

The weekly schedule is divided into

- A lecture/discussion with the instructor on weekly topics
- Assigned readings on weekly topics
- Assigned writing prompts and reflections submitted for grading
- A workshop (led by a tutorial assistant or the instructor, wherein students write, share, respond to, discuss and revise assigned prompts and complete in-class writing exercises)

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Produce polished creative writing pieces in multiple genres (poetry, short story, creative nonfiction).
2. Engage with literary texts as writers and speak about these same texts as writers (rather than as readers or scholars).
3. Discuss writing effectively, employing key terms such as “narrative point of view” and “character” for fiction; “imagery” and “enjambment” for poetry.
4. Revise their creative work while respectfully and constructively commenting upon the creative work of their peers.

Required texts: We will read creative writing or an essay on the topic(s) each week. These readings are available on ARES (a digital repository of class readings made available through the MacOdrum library). Using Brightspace, students will access Ares, download and read the

assigned readings, and prepare to discuss or respond to these readings in lectures, workshops, or as part of assignments.

Course Assessments

1. **Writing Prompts and Reflection Statements:** Students will respond to an assigned writing prompt in advance of the workshops (and come to workshops prepared to share that writing prompt with a group of peer editors). Students in each peer-editing group will take turns reading and constructively commenting upon each other's work. It is up to each student-writer to make notes of the editorial comments received, as you will need these comments to revise your work. You will also need to summarize editorial comments in your reflection statements, and there may also be a reading question included in the reflection component. Bring drafts of your prompts to workshops in the form of three hard copies to distribute.
2. **Final Assignment and Reflection:** You will look back over your writing assignments and choose 1-2 assignments to revise and submit for final grading. You will be asked to submit annotated drafts. There will also be a final reflection statement and reading question. Guidelines and marking rubrics will be posted on Brightspace; due dates are posted on the weekly schedule below.
3. **Workshop Participation:** Attending workshops and actively participating is an essential part of this course. Participation is based on participating in group discussions, coming to workshops prepared (i.e. with a draft of writing to share with your peers), volunteering to read your work out loud, and the overall demonstration of respect for and participation in the workshop process.
4. **Writing Journal:** Each week in workshops, students will respond to and submit various writing exercises, which could also include close reading questions about assigned texts. Writing exercises must be written and submitted for grading during the workshops. Please bring paper and pen to workshops to complete the journals.
5. **Literary Event Review:** The instructor will provide a list of literary events for students to attend and review (such as events associated with the Ottawa International Writers Festival). Reviews are due within two weeks of the event. Students will choose an event that aligns with their schedule and interests.
6. **Quizzes:** Students will write 2-3 short quizzes on material covered in the lecture. Each quiz will take about 20 minutes. The best way to prepare for the quizzes is to attend class, take notes, and keep up with the assigned readings.

Using generative AI (such as ChatGPT) to complete any of your assignments in this course is cheating and will be penalized. If you are struggling in this course, please speak to the instructor or your TA. The teaching team is available to offer support as you complete your assignments.

There are no exams in this course. The penalty for late assignments is 2% a day. Please request an extension from your TA or the instructor if needed.

ATTENDANCE: Students who are absent due to medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances must submit an "Academic Consideration for Coursework" form to be considered for accommodation regarding missed work. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/>