This is a preliminary course outline and is subject to change.

Note: this course is not a prerequisite for taking the Creative Writing workshops offered in the Department of English. In other words, taking this course does not guarantee admission into the department’s Creative Writing workshops. These workshops (listed on the English Department website) are all based on the submission of a quality portfolio (which this course will give you the opportunity to prepare) and the permission of the instructor.

As such, if you already have a portfolio of creative work, you might consider submitting it to one or more of the workshops we offer without taking this course.

But:

- If you feel you need time and guidance preparing a portfolio, this course is the ideal place to do so.

- If you never plan on taking a Creative Writing workshop but still have an interest in writing (as a practice or perhaps as a business, or just because you love reading and wonder what goes on behind the scenes) this course is also for you.

- If you are already in a Creative Writing workshop but are interested in learning more about the ins and outs of creative writing (here at Carleton and in North America more broadly), this course is also for you.
Course Description:

This course is designed for students of any academic discipline or level who have an interest in creative writing—as an artistic practice, an industry, or an academic discipline. Students who have never written creatively are welcome in this course: they just need a desire to try it out. Students who have written creatively are also welcome.

The three hours this class meets each week will be divided into:

- a lecture by the instructor on a weekly topic
- a guest lecturer (guests will be local writers, publishers, organizers of literary festivals, as well as instructors in the Department of English who teach Creative Writing and Drama)
- writing in response to targeted in-class prompts and then workshopping them (sharing and critiquing) in a small group

Learning outcomes:

1. Students will emerge from this course with a portfolio of creative work in multiple genres (poetry, short story, creative non-fiction, screenwriting, perhaps others). With this portfolio students can opt to apply for acceptance into the Creative Writing workshops at the 2000 and 3000 level offered in the Department of English.

2. Students will also gain a critical understanding of how the publishing industry functions in Canada and North America and be able to situate literary trends (self-publishing, fan fiction, literary fiction) within that landscape (a landscape which includes literary prizes, festivals, arts funding).

3. Students will learn to read literary and dramatic texts as writers and to speak about these same texts as writers (rather than as critics or scholars)

4. Students will learn how to critique a piece of writing, employing key terms such as “voice” and “character” for fiction, “image” and “rhythm” for poetry

5. Students will learn how to edit their own creative work and that of others

6. Students will have the opportunity to practice reading their own creative work in front of others

Evaluation:

- Short bi-weekly tests based on lectures, guest lectures, and assigned readings
- Participation in class discussions and workshop discussions
• Thoughtfulness and imagination evident in in-class and take-home writing prompts

• Review of a literary reading event at the Ottawa Writers Festival

• Approximately three writing prompts that have been edited by your fellow writers in the class and subsequently revised and polished by you. These revised prompts will include a short “reflection statement” describing the revisions you made, as well as why you made them.

Required texts:

Each week we will read a piece of creative writing, dramatic writing, and/or an essay on the weekly topic. These readings will be on ARES (a digital repository of class readings made available through MacOdrum library). Students will download, print out, and read the assigned reading, and come to class prepared to discuss it.

A sample of the topics this course will cover each week:

• What is creative writing? Can writing creatively be taught?
• What is a “portfolio”?
• What is a workshop? How do you workshop? The art of the critique.
• Writing from real life. Fiction vs. Reality
• Writing with images
• Arts promotion/ the festival circuit in Canada
• Literary publishing in Canada/ conglomerate vs. small press
• Literary prizes/ book clubs/ “Amazon Recommends”
• The rise of self-publishing and e-publishing

A sample of genres this course will introduce (and which students will have the opportunity to write within):

• Short story
• Novella
• Creative Non-Fiction
• Poetry
• Writing for Stage and Screen
• Drama

Again: This is a preliminary course outline and is subject to change.
REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

PLAGIARISM
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence, which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with
the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.