

**Carleton University
Fall 2017
Department of English**

ENGL 1500 B Introduction to Creative Writing: Conventions and Genre Outlaws

Location: Tory Building 208
Fridays 8:35-11:35

Instructor: Sarah Waisvisz
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Office Hours: Fridays 1-3 *by appointment only*

Introduction to Creative Writing -- 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. Together we will read literary examples from various genres, practice writing those genres, and develop a portfolio of edited writing. This class is a combination of lecture AND writing workshop, and out-of-class reading and writing will be required of each student.

TAs/ Teaching Assistants:

Bridgette Brown: bridgettebrown@cmail.carleton.ca
Megan Misztal: meganmisztal@cmail.carleton.ca
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Please 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.

However:

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

Each weekly class is divided into a) lecture and b) workshop. Both are mandatory!
8:35-10:00 lecture by the Professor on the week's topic and that week's assigned reading
10:15-11:35 workshop led by your Teaching Assistant; workshops will include hands-on in-class critical and creative writing, peer editing, and work in small groups or with a partner.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will emerge from this course with the beginnings of a portfolio of creative work in 3 genres (short story, memoir/creative non-fiction, playwriting). This initial portfolio can be the foundation of a portfolio that students can use to apply for acceptance into the Creative Writing workshops at the 2000 and 3000 level offered in the Department of English.
2. Students will learn to read literary and dramatic texts as writers and to speak about these same texts as writers (rather than as readers 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 practice reading their own creative work in front of others.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Each week we will read some creative writing by renowned writers. These readings will be on ARES (a digital repository of class readings made available through MacOdrum library); in the library on COURSE RESERVE; or available at OCTUPUS BOOKS or HAVEN BOOKS. Students are expected to carefully read that week's reading BEFORE class.

EVALUATION:

Your workshop instructor will be primarily responsible for assigning and evaluating the work you prepare in relation to the workshop itself. In addition, you will submit 3 more substantial works of creative writing. Your attendance will account for 10% of your final grade.

Attendance:	5% for attendance at lecture; 5% for attendance in workshop
Workshop Work:	45%
Portfolio Assignment 1:	15% (due February 16 th in class, at beginning of lecture)
Portfolio Assignment 2:	15% (due March 16 th in class, at beginning of lecture)
Portfolio Assignment 3:	15% (due April 11 th in class, at beginning of lecture)

ATTENDANCE will be taken at the beginning of each lecture and each workshop. A student who misses more than four classes without a medical note or note of accommodation will automatically lose 10% of their final grade.

NO CELL PHONE USE, please. If you need to be on your phone on Fridays from 8:35-11:35, simply do not come to class.

SUBMISSIONS

INCLUDE YOUR NAME, STUDENT NUMBER, AND THE NAME OF YOUR TA ON ALL PAGES of work you submit. ALL submissions will be typed, printed, and handed in in person during class. **Please do not email assignments unless you have permission to do so.**

Date and Topic	Readings for Lecture	Notes
Week 1: January 12, 2018 Course outline; CU Learn and ARES (Course Reserves) Debate: Artistic Talent vs. Craft, Practice, and Technique Discuss Course Structure and assign workshop groups Reading as a Writer vs. Reading as a Reader	Please pick up the course books at HAVEN BOOKS and at OCTOPUS BOOKS. ALL readings must be read and completed FOR the class they are listed with.	*Please use this chart as a way to track your work, if you like.* NB no workshop today, just lecture
Week 2: January 19: Short Fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genre ie. the short story • Speaking about literature (vocabulary/terms) 	Edwidge Danticat, <i>Krik? Krak!</i> *this book is a collection of short stories. We will read several stories. For today: --. "A Wall of Fire Rising"	
Week 3: January 26: Short Fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot and structure • Character and setting 	Edwidge Danticat, <i>Krik? Krak!</i> --. "The Missing Peace"	
Week 4: February 2: Short Fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes and symbols • Poetic language 	Edwidge Danticat, <i>Krik? Krak!</i> --. "Caroline's Wedding" --. "Epilogue"	Portfolio Text #1 is due in lecture (short story)
Week 5: Feb 9: The Graphic Novel/ Memoir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is memoir?creative non-fiction? 	<i>Persepolis</i> by Marjane Satrapi	
Week 6: Feb 16: The Graphic Novel / Memoir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of visual rhetoric 	<i>Persepolis</i> by Marjane Satrapi	
Week 7: March 2: Drama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic structure • Comedy vs. tragedy • Adaptations of Shakespeare 	<i>*Goodnight Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet</i> by Ann-Marie MacDonald	
Week 8: March 9: Drama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters: protagonists, antagonists • Who is The Wise Fool? • Production History of the play 	<i>*Goodnight Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet</i>	Portfolio Text #2 is due in lecture (creative non-fiction)
Week 9: March 16: The Novella <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice /Point of View 	<i>* Wide Sargasso Sea</i> by Jean Rhys	
Week 10: March 23: The Novella <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Style / Setting 	<i>* Wide Sargasso Sea</i> by Jean Rhys	
Week 11: April 6 : The Novella <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation/ Allusion / Context 	<i>* Wide Sargasso Sea</i> by Jean Rhys	
Week 12: 11 April: this is a WEDNESDAY! Literary Salon: in-class reading of our own work	A chance for you to present your work to your peers	No workshop today. Class will run from 8:30-11:35. Portfolio Text #3 is due in lecture

Statement on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is cheating.

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally 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 and it cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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.

Final Grades:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).