

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

FALL 2017

ENGLISH 265  
INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING  
LEC 1 Tues 8:00-9:15 ST 141

SEM 1 Thurs 08:00-9:15 EDC 276  
SEM 2 Thurs 08:00-9:15 ST 027  
SEM 3 Thurs 08:00-9:51 SA 243  
SEM 4 Thurs 08:00-9:15 SA 125  
SEM 5 Thurs 08:00-9:15 EEEL 151  
SEM 6 Thurs 08:00-9:15 ST 057

Instructor: Professor Shannon Maguire  
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Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 10-11:30 AM or by appointment

**Tutorial Instructors:**

S01 Erin Vance; [eevance@ucalgary.ca](mailto:eevance@ucalgary.ca)  
S02 Neil Surkan; [neil.surkan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:neil.surkan@ucalgary.ca)  
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S06 Ben Groh; [benjamin.groh@ucalgary.ca](mailto:benjamin.groh@ucalgary.ca)

**Email Policy**

I am happy to respond to short specific questions via email. However, the best way to reach me is to call or visit me in person **during my office hours**. You can expect a response to your email **within 5 business days**. Please note that emails should be used primarily to set up appointments. Please note that if I receive a long email, I will reply with a request to set up an appointment.

Electronic submission of assignments via D2L is required with all assignments.

## **Use and Abuse of Electronic Devices in Class:**

Laptops are permitted for class use, but please refrain from engaging with social media or other non-class related activities during class time.

## **Course Description:**

This course will introduce you to the rudiments of craft for poetry, drama, and fiction. The course objective is to provide an opportunity to explore the basics of three genres and to develop an appreciation of the techniques and social practice of creative writing. The lecture will introduce students to the elements of craft and to introduce some work by exciting modern and contemporary writers. The Thursday seminars focus on discussion of student writing.

Although this course does not count towards a Creative Writing “Concentration” designation on a student’s transcript, the class ideally will result in a much stronger portfolio for use in the student’s application to intermediate and advanced creative writing classes.

By the end of this course students will have:

- practiced writing craft in three Creative Writing genres;
- begun to develop their own Creative Writing practice;
- developed a concrete understanding of how image, metaphor, dialogue and narrative may work in these three genres;
- begun to develop critical tools with which to analyze Creative Writing;
- been introduced to a number of significant Creative Writers through the course texts.

Students do not need to have written anything prior to taking this course. The course aims to encourage and support everyone from the casual journal writer who may never have discussed writing in a public way, to the budding poet or emerging novelist.

## **Texts and Readings:**

Morley, David. *The Cambridge Introduction to Creative Writing*. Access the open source version here: <https://archive.org/details/TheCambridgeIntroductionToCreativeWriting>

Braid, Kate and Sandy Shreve. *In Fine Form: The Canadian Book of Form Poetry* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

CD:

Sheri-D Wilson. *Dragon Rouge*. Calgary: University of Calgary Press.

Online:

Script Archive: Ten Minute Plays <http://www.theatrehistory.com/plays/10minute.html>

## Assignments and Evaluations:

Workshop Participation (in Seminar) 20%

Weekly Notebook 15%

Portfolio One (Ten Minute Play) 15%

Portfolio Two (Short Fiction and Poetry) 50%

**\*\*NB There is NO FINAL EXAM in this class.**

Students must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade.

### Workshop Participation

Writing, like any of the creative arts, requires discipline and practice. Just like pianists, who spend hours on the piano bench accumulating muscle memory and developing their ear, writers who are serious about learning and deepening their craft spend hours at their desks, pounding away at the keys. But writing is also a social practice and writers are called upon to take interest in the work of their peers as well as established writers. In your seminars, you will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience led by talented up and coming voices in CanLit. **Attendance is mandatory in both lecture and seminar.**

Each week in seminar, you will bring 10 printed copies of 1-2 pages of your work-in-progress. If you don't bring printed copies, you can't workshop your work that week but you can still workshop your peers' work. Each student who brings work will read their work aloud to the group. Other students will mark their comments on their copies and your TA will lead a brief discussion of the work at hand. Please note that due to time constraints, not all students will be guaranteed a chance to workshop their work every week but providing feedback (both written and verbal) to your peers is of equal importance and will count towards your participation mark.

### Weekly Notebook

The main difference between writers and everyone else is that writers write. A lot. Writers also observe the world around them and read voraciously. The Writer's Notebook is an art in itself. For the purposes of this assignment, you should expect to **fill two pages every week** with some or all of the following elements: **specific scenes** and details that you observe in daily life (be as exact as possible in your description of conflicts, actions, fabrics, dialogue etc. that you observe as you walk around in the world); notes on craft—this can be observations about sentence structure, technique, effect, etc. that you notice in texts from this or other classes or from books that you read for pleasure, or it can be practice runs of stanzas where you try several different central metaphors and then explain your thinking about the different effects and about your ultimate choice, or it can mean that you copy out a **short** excerpt from an article on craft by another writer and then practice it and make it your own; **character sketches** (again these should be based on observations from life rather than from your imagination and should include overheard dialogue whenever possible); **notes and observations about visiting writers**—during the course we will have several visiting writers and you are encouraged to record your thoughts and observations in your notebook; other thoughts and ideas relevant to the craft of writing—you may even attend events off-campus and want to write about them in the context of matters of craft. This will provide you with raw magma

that will be very useful when you come to write your poems, scenes, and stories and transform this raw magma into solid structures in language. You may be called on to share some of your notebook in lecture and seminar. **These are due before the start of seminar EVERY THURSDAY.** It is important, then, that this Writer's Notebook not be confused with the genre of diary. Please do not include confidential or overly personal details about yourself or others. This is meant to be focused on craft and on translating the world into language. **All writing must be submitted online using D2L dropbox and in a PDF file.**

Portfolio 1 (10 Minute Play) (15%) DUE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

You will hand in a short play meant to be staged in 10 minutes. A 10 minute play is a complete story arc that takes 10 minutes on stage. It should be a maximum of ten pages of script (including stage directions) and a minimum of eight script pages but will also include a page describing the Dramatic Personae.

This assignment is meant to represent new work insofar as you will have written it from concept to submitted draft during the course of this semester. However, you should not submit first drafts. This assignment must consist of your original work and represent the best work that you have done this semester (no writing from other classes or from workshops that you've taken off campus etc.).

This portfolio will be graded by your TAs. **All writing must be submitted online using D2L dropbox and in a PDF file.**

Portfolio 2 Short Fiction and Poetry (50%) DUE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

This portfolio should include a short story be between 2500 and 3000 words and **one poem** in a form that we have discussed in class.

This portfolio will be marked by your professor and will consist of original, polished work written during the course of this semester. **All writing must be submitted online using D2L dropbox and in a PDF file.**

**Grading System**

90 + % A+ 4.0  
85 – 89 % A 4.0  
80 – 84 % A– 3.7  
77 – 79 % B+ 3.3  
74 – 76 % B 3.0  
70 – 73 % B– 2.7  
67 – 69 % C+ 2.3  
64 – 66 % C 2.0  
60 – 63 % C– 1.7

55 – 59 % D+ 1.3  
50 – 54 % D 1.0  
0 – 49 % F 0

**Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

**Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

**Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/etiquette.htm>

**Library and Research Support:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboym@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboym@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

**Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**



**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Student Accommodations:****ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf> .

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:**

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

**PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html> “The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.