



COURSE TITLE: Reading Like a Writer			
Course Number	English 335		FALL 2020
Faculty / Department	Faculty of Arts/Department of English		
Instructor Name	Aritha van Herk	Email	vanherk@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Please note that all course communications should occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails. I usually respond to messages within 48 hours.		
Office Location	SS 1132	Telephone No:	403 220-5481
Office Hours	Because of COVID 19's challenges to communication, I will not hold regular office "hours," but will be available after each on-line class for questions, and Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons from September 8 th to December 8 th . For ease of communication, I encourage students to book a time.		
Class Dates/Times/Location	This course will occur SYNCHRONOUSLY with currently scheduled times. Classes will take place via ZOOM, Mondays and Wednesdays, from 14:00 to 15:15, Calgary time. Students are asked to attend via ZOOM and to be ready to participate, within the limitations of an online platform. Slides of the class will NOT be posted, although relevant references will be posted on D2L.		

Course description:

English 335 is a course focused on reading and researching from a writerly perspective, with the aim of enhancing creative skills, as an early but important step in the development of a writing practice. Many writers are nervous about being "influenced," and so fail to understand that reading/looking with the eye of a writer, and paying attention to library research, form and structure, diction and language and discernment, is key to building a strong foundation for creative success.

This course requires that students write creative work impelled by and in concert with reading and research; it focuses on structural elements and their specific deployment, undertaking explorations in how reading and research enable writers to engage with both process and form in their writing.

This is a foundational class, but flexible in its appreciation of multiple creative approaches. The reading/research that you will undertake is not didactic but is intended to spark, enhance and elevate the writing that you will produce.

Students should be prepared for focused and ongoing work. The course is conducted as a seminar, with students expected to complete assignments promptly, and to keep up with an engaged workload. Primary and Secondary research with library resources will be part of students' engagement.

Yes, students will be expected to discuss the reading, research, and writing in class, on ZOOM.

Yes, this class requires that students read all the course texts.

Students will not be given in-class writing assignments, but there will be experiential classes in tandem with the research assignments related to the library work that is part of the course.

This course encourages students to develop their writing practice and creativity.

Yes, it is fun.

Yes, it is a lot of work.

Be prepared.

Plan ahead, using the Class Schedule.

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions. If you are unable to participate live due to unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement your alternative participation activity. Simply asking the instructor to regurgitate the class is not appropriate. Nor is it appropriate to e-mail the instructor and ask if you "missed anything."

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Read texts with creative discernment.
2. Undertake targeted creative research in contemporary, literary, and historical areas.
3. Write persuasive and original prose and/or aesthetically pleasing poetry.
4. Recognize and eradicate clichés in writing.
5. Deploy a range of research skills to investigate locality, place, and identity.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of cross-cultural differences when working with textual materials.
7. Write more precisely, succinctly, and grammatically.

Texts, all required. They are available at the bookstore.

Shaun Hunter, *Calgary Through the Eyes of Writers*

Charlene Knight, *Dear Current Occupant*

Robert Kroetsch, *Too Bad*

Richard Wagamese, *Indian Horse*

Archival and library research, as per Research Adventure.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a D2L site for this course which contains relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

In order to successfully engage in your learning experience at the University of Calgary, students taking this online course are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Assignments and Evaluation:

#1, #2, #3

3 short assignments, each of which apprehends a different element of reading in relation to writing (400-500 words each)

#4 1 written discussion of research/process and writing (500 words)

#5 1 final well-crafted capstone creative response (1500 words)

Percentage Breakdown:

Each short assignment is worth 10%: 30%

Written assignment on research/process: 25%

Class participation: 10%

(Based on attendance on ZOOM, questions and contributions, and preparation throughout the course)

Capstone creative response: 35%

100%

This is very much a participatory course, even if we will be working online. You cannot simply coast and watch. Students are expected to attend regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. These are part of the participation grade, as outlined in the assessment components section below. If students miss a class session, contact Professor van Herk to make up for that component.

In this course, you will also participate in several sessions on conducting creative research, through Library and Archives, which will enhance your apprehension of creative research/process and writing. These sessions are required and will be evaluated.

There is NO Registrar scheduled exam in this course.

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade; one missing assignment can result in an F.

Assignments must be submitted electronically, to my e-mail address (vanherk@ucalgary.ca) in word.doc format by the date indicated in the class schedule. They are due at 14:00 (the beginning of class).

Name your doc with your last name, then 335, then the number of the assignment, then your student ID.

For example, doc.van Herk, 335, #1, student number. Do NOT use your first name, and do not deviate from this order.

Assignments should be double spaced, and should employ a clear simple type, Times New Roman or a similar font in size 12.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue.

CONDUCT and INTEGRITY

Although we are all affected by COVID19, students are expected to demonstrate behaviour in (virtual) class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of laptop and mobile devices should be appropriate to the course and class activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Zoom is a video conferencing program that allows us to meet at specific times for a “live” video class, so that we can have the opportunity to hear lectures, to meet each other virtually and to discuss relevant course material as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on ANY social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are intended ONLY for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing learning relies on participants acting ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom, you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NensL4USbQM> for a humorous example.

Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom class sessions. Your webcam should be on throughout the class, as we will be engaging in discussion.

Students will be advised if the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Grading system:

Every assignment will be returned to you via e-mail with an assigned a letter grade as per the letter grade system below.

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

Following is a precise description of how grades are derived by Professor van Herk. Please read and note.

A range (4): Exceptional work

Use of language is concise and precise; figures of speech are imaginative and original; the content is interesting, the approach is fresh, and the form chosen is the best possible, every element of prose engaged with sophistication and elegance.

A+ is a grade earned only in very rare instances, by work that is absolutely stellar. It is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system.

B range (3): Good work

The work is good, above average, but could use more refinement or development, and usually more revision. It shows at least in part a heightened use of language, several striking aspects of imagery or narrative, and an interesting perspective or point of view. Word choice and description are generally exact and thoughtful.

C range (2): Average work

The work is satisfactory but relies on ordinary use of language. Although the writing is competent and shows promise, it definitely needs more work and greater focus, and writing may verge on the clichéd, predictable, or derivative. Vocabulary is adequate but may be limited.

D (1): Minimal pass

The work shows some effort but is carelessly constructed and may have grammatical problems. Use of language is undistinguished and clichéd; ideas are ordinary.

F: No Credit

Work shows no effort; no work has been done at all or is frequently late.

The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

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**.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at **<https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>**. 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>

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: maboyn@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here:

https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619

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.

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.

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. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

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

***RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

***INSTRUCTOR'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

***FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

***COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

***MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

***Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek

consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

***Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

***Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

***OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

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). 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://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.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.