

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2024

EN2950(A3): Introduction to Creative Writing: Prose – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Anna Lapointe	PHONE:	780-539-2992
OFFICE:	C420	E-MAIL:	alapointe@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Wednesday 12:30-2:00 pm or by appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: At an introductory level, this course emphasizes the principles and practices of writing publishable prose. Students are allowed to write in various genres aimed at traditional publication or other markets.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Six credits of Junior English and consent of instructor based on some demonstrated attempt at creative prose submitted to the instructor at least 9 days before the first class

REQUIRED TEXT:

- Vandermeer, Jeff, and John Coulthart. *Wonderbook: The Illustrated Guide to Creating Imaginative Fiction*. (Revised and Expanded Edition.) Abrams.

Fiction readings are posted on MyClass. Students are responsible for ensuring that they can access these files.

DELIVERY MODE: On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Articulate the distinctions between genres of prose writing
- Produce written work in at least two prose genres

- Prepare and present work for group feedback
- Offer feedback in a detailed and constructive manner
- Engage in detailed revision of creative prose
- Integrate a range of feedback in revising their work for publishing submission

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Weekly assignments (best 7 submissions)	35% (averaged)
Final portfolio (stands in place of exam)	30%
Presentation of work/response to critiques (2 x 7.5%)	15%
Participation (including in-class constructive critiques)	15%
Self-Evaluation	5%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

The schedule of readings will be available on the first day of class.

The schedule of workshops will be established by student sign-up.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Attendance:** Even more than a regular English class, this course requires your presence. Each unexcused absence will result in a major deduction from your attendance & participation grade.
 - If your absence is for a legitimate reason (illness or family crisis), **let the instructor know by e-mail**. In your e-mail, please indicate your course number and section. Please send a new e-mail for each class missed for a legitimate reason, or clearly state which days will be missed. E-mailed notices of absence do not automatically “roll over” for future missed dates.
- **Participation:** Simply showing up is not sufficient. You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to the class dialogue. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up, so ask!
 - In order to participate effectively, you should have the day's reading completed before class begins. Ideally, you will also have made notes on the material and brought them along, so that you're never left saying, “I got nothin’,” when asked to comment.
 - In order to improve your writing and to develop respect for writing as a craft, it's imperative that you do your own writing, without using Chat-GPT or any other AI or language bot. Assignments found to have been created using AI/bots will not be graded. AI-written assignments may be subject to further penalties under the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy. Additional penalties may also be applied to your participation grade.
- **Missed Material:** Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Notes and updates should be obtained from classmates, not the instructor.
- **Presentation of Work for Critique:** Twice in the course, students will bring a sample of their work for class critique (max 1000 words). It is essential that you provide your sample to the instructor well in advance of the class meeting for which you are scheduled. Workshops take place on Wednesdays; submit your work to the instructor in PDF format no later than 4pm the preceding Friday. (Files submitted in formats other than PDF will not be accepted.)
 - If you do not submit your work for critique on time, you may be subject to a 5% penalty.
 - If you do not submit your work for critique at all, or if you are absent without excuse from the class in which you are scheduled for critique, you may receive a grade of 0% for that element of the course. Mercy on this point is entirely at the instructor's discretion.
- **Critiques of Classmates' Work:** Work submitted for critique will be posted to myClass on Friday for critique the following Wednesday. It is each student's responsibility to access the files, to read

the writing samples for that class at least twice, to take notes on them, and to offer constructive suggestions for the editing process.

- Feedback will be delivered verbally. The workshop process is essential to professional writing, and to the development of writing communities. It is the responsibility of all members of the group to be constructive, helpful, and pleasant during this process. Rudeness, power plays, hate speech, and personal attacks will not be tolerated. It is important to remember that our focus is on the work and not on the author.
- **Receptivity:** All writers have moments of resentment in the workshop process. I call this process “You don't understand my genius!” This is a normal feeling, but keep it to yourself. Be prepared to listen to critiques thoughtfully and politely, and be prepared to incorporate feedback into your editing process. When you are unsure how to respond to a comment or suggestion, “Thank you,” is always appropriate.
- **Submission of Weekly Assignments:** Students will be given writing prompts each Friday, for submission the following Friday, no later than 4:00pm. These are intended to keep students writing new work and thinking about the writing process. Students must submit **at least seven** weekly assignments to receive full credit.
 - Assignments must be submitted via myClass. Assignments must be in pdf format. Improperly submitted work will not be accepted. If myClass won't accept your submission, it's probably because there's a problem with your file (wrong file type) – check that before contacting the instructor.
 - **Late submissions of weekly assignments are not accepted.**

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

- **Office Hours:** My office hours are listed on the first page of this course outline.
 - You don't need an appointment to meet with me during office hours. I meet with students in the order that they show up.
 - This is your time, as much as class is. Please don't feel you're imposing.
 - Office hours are cancelled if the instructor is sick. But I'll post an announcement to that effect, and re-schedule when I'm better.

- If you make an appointment to meet with me outside of regular office hours, please actually attend that meeting, or notify me that you won't be able to make it, so I'm not left humming to myself.
- **Pre-Assessments:** Students often request that I "look over" an assignment and offer feedback before the assignment is due. I regret that I cannot do this, simply because of the time commitment involved, and the number of students I teach.
 - However, I am always pleased to review your thesis statement, and even to review several drafts of it. Please send your thesis statement for feedback by email, pasted into the body of the e-mail.
 - Thesis statements are not reviewed in person, because I need time to consider and give you the best feedback I can. E-mail them to me for best results!
- **Preferred Names & Pronouns:** At the course's outset, my list of students' names is based on the register. If you would prefer to be called something else, please let me know, and I will adjust my list accordingly, and use your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments, as well as on your Zoom. (If your preferred surname varies from the name under which you are registered, I may need occasional reminders.)
 - If you want to tell me your pronouns, you should feel free to do so. I will respect your pronouns.
 - All students are expected to respect their classmates' preferred names and pronouns.
- **Crisis Management:** I'm not a monster, but I'm not psychic, either. If something goes wrong in your life, I won't automatically know. If you let me know, I will work with you to help you keep up/catch up in the course. You are human, and entropy affects us all: crises happen. I will happily work with you to ensure they don't derail your academic career.
- **Important Note:** How you do in the class has no effect on how much I like and respect you. If you submit an assignment late, I will not be ashamed of you or look on you with disgust. If your work is imperfect, it's a sign that there are things you need to learn/I need to help you with; it is not a sign that you are a bad, lazy, or unworthy person.