



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015

EN 2950 (A2): INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING: PROSE – 3(3-0-0) 45 HOURS

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anna Lapointe

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Mondays 1:30-3:00; Tuesdays 12:30-2:00; Fridays 11:30-12:30;

OFFICE HOURS: or by appointment

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: 6 credits of junior English. Students without the prerequisite may not receive credit for this course

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Goldberg, Natalie. *Old Friend from Far Away: The Practice of Writing Memoir*. New York: Ataria, 2013.

Additional readings may be posted on Moodle. Students are responsible for ensuring that they can access these files.

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

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3 credits / 3 hours per week

DELIVERY MODE: Lecture and Discussion

OBJECTIVES: Students will use personal experiences and reflections on memory to produce writing that can be used as a foundation for both fiction and creative nonfiction, prepare samples of their work for group critique, offer constructive criticism on the work of others, and revise their own work in response to both instructor and group feedback.

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 submission

TRANSFERABILITY:

Athabasca University: ENGL 2xx (3)

Canadian University College: ENGL 1xx (3)

Grant MacEwan University: ENGL 103/1xx (6)

Grant MacEwan University: ENGL 103 (3)

King's University College: ENGL 2xx (3)

University of Alberta: ENGL 124 (3)

University of Calgary: Jr. ENGL (3)

University of Lethbridge: ENGL 1xxx (3)

**** 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**

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B ⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B ⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C ⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C ⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D ⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATIONS:

Weekly assignments	30%
Final portfolio	30%
Presentation of work/response to critiques	10%
Participation (including in-class constructive critiques)	20%
Self-Evaluation	10%

Grading for this class differs from a standard English course. There is no single standard which students are expected to meet. Students enrolled in this course differ in experience and skill levels; those will not be the primary source of evaluation. Instead, students will be evaluated on the following criteria: contribution to class workshops, completion of course work, incorporation of critiques into edited work,

and overall improvement. These criteria are intended to emphasize commitment to the process of writing and improvement over the course of the term.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance

Even more than a regular English class, this course requires your presence. Showing up is fundamental. Each unexcused absence will result in a 6% deduction from your attendance & participation grade.

If your absence is for a legitimate reason (illness, family crisis, snowed in – please provide pictures, hit by a bus), let the instructor know **by e-mail**. I appreciate it when you tell me verbally, but I need the e-mail so that I can check my records at the end of the term. In your e-mail, please indicate your course number and section (EN2950 A2).

That said, 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!

Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences.

Presentation of Work for Critique

Once in the course, students will bring a sample of their work for class critique. It is essential that you provide your sample to the instructor well in advance of the class meeting for which you are scheduled. (For a Monday class, submit **no later than** Friday noon. For a Wednesday class submit **no later than** Monday noon.)

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

It is each student's responsibility 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 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.

Submission of Weekly Assignments

Students will be given writing prompts each week, for submission the following week. These are intended to keep students writing new work, and thinking about the writing process. Students are required to submit eight of these in the course of the term. **They will only be accepted on their due date.** All assignments will be returned the following week with comments and suggestions. Because of the volume of material involved, I cannot accept late assignments. Students must submit at least **six** weekly assignments to receive full credit.

Assignment Submission

Assignments are due **by the end of the class**. If you submit on paper, please submit your assignment to the instructor at the beginning of the class. Paper assignments will receive hand-written feedback.

If you submit your assignment electronically, it must be e-mailed in **PDF format** (other formats will not be accepted), and must be date-stamped no later than the end of the day's class. PDF assignments will receive feedback via file annotation. The comments can be accessed in Adobe Reader (free software – link provided on Moodle).

Late submissions of weekly assignments will not be accepted.

Moodle

The Moodle course page is this class' electronic home! Make sure you can access the page, and check it at least twice a week. Handouts and slideshows are posted there and can be accessed by students for reference and study purposes.

The Moodle page also contains the list of assignments, additional readings (either as pdf files or as URL links), class announcements, and resource materials. Please ensure that you can access all files and links, and inform the instructor of any problems.

Course announcements are delivered via GPRC e-mail. Please check your GPRC mail account daily. (Instructions on how to put GPRC mail on your phone are posted on Moodle!)

If you have trouble accessing Moodle or your GPRC e-mail, contact the technical support office immediately. Students are responsible for ensuring they have access to the course material.

Electronics in the Classroom

I permit the use of electronic devices (laptop computers, tablets, and phones) in the classroom for note-taking and document-access purposes. Please turn off all sound-generating functions.

If you do not choose to print the readings posted on Moodle, or to annotate classmates' work electronically, please ensure that you can access these documents electronically during class.

I cannot reliably determine whether students are using their devices for class-related purposes. If you choose to use your device for non-class purposes (such as texting and Facebook), please be aware that those activities actually damage the learning experience of those around you. Thus, if you absolutely *must* text in class, please sit in the back so as to distract as few of your classmates as possible.

If your phone rings in class, the instructor may dance wildly to your ringtone. Be warned.

Office Hours

My office hours are listed on the first page of this course outline, and are also posted on my office door. These are times when I guarantee* I'll be available to meet with you. During office hours, you don't need an appointment to meet with me. This is

your time, as much as class time is. Feel free to ask questions, seek help, ask for more information, or simply come by to admire my collection of odd stuffed animals.

If you are busy during my office hours, get in touch with me (preferably by e-mail), and we'll make a time to meet that works for both of us.

*Guarantee void if instructor has the stomach flu, for obvious reasons. But I'll leave a note.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at

https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms_documents/Student_Misconduct.pdf

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at

<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

Within this course, plagiarism includes submitting another person's work as your own and submitting work done for a previous course as new work for this one. Literature has slightly different expectations for plagiarism; we will discuss these standards, and explore how to establish artistic integrity in our own work.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Workshops will constitute a significant portion of the class time. The schedule for these will be posted on Moodle as soon as students have selected their workshop dates.

Readings listed by "section" are from Goldberg's *Old Friend from Far Away*. Please have these readings completed prior to the class in which they will be taken up. Students are encouraged to try as many of the writing prompts in each section as they can. These may produce useful work for critique sessions and for your own use. However, no grades will be assigned for these prompts and not all will be taken up in class.

Classes with no notation after them do not yet have assigned readings. However, these classes will still take place. Please plan to attend all classes!

Sept 2 – Introduction; workshop signup

Sept 7 – no class (Labour Day)

Sept 9

Sept 14 – Section I

Sept 16 – workshop

Sept 21 – Section II

Sept 23 – workshop

Sept 28 – section III

Sept 30 – workshop

Oct 5 – Section IV

Oct 7 – workshop

Oct 12 – no class (Thanksgiving)

Oct 14 – workshop

Oct 19 – section V

Oct 21 – workshop

Oct 26 – section VI

Oct 28 – workshop

Nov 2 – Section VII

Nov 4 – workshop

Nov 9 – workshop

Nov 11 – no class (Remembrance Day)

Nov 16 – Section VIII

Nov 18 – workshop

Nov 23 – Section IX

Nov 25 – workshop

Nov 30 – Section X

Dec 2 – workshop

Dec 7 – last day of class

Exam time/place TBA. Final portfolio will be due at that time.