



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2015

EN3950 (A3/VC): INTERMEDIATE CREATIVE WRITING – 3 (3-0-0) 45 HOURS

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anna Lapointe **PHONE:** 780-539-2992
OFFICE: C420 **E-MAIL:** alapointe@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 3-4:30pm and Thursdays 11:30-12:50pm

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: EN2950. Students without EN2950 must have 6 credits of junior English and the permission of the instructor to register.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Hodgins, Jack. A Passion for Narrative: A Guide for Writing Fiction.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: At an intermediate level, this course emphasizes the principles and practices of writing fiction. Students are encouraged to explore established and emerging forms, and to focus on the production of a completed work of fiction.

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

DELIVERY MODES: Lecture/Discussion/Workshop

OBJECTIVES :

This course is intended to guide students in the completion of one or more short stories. The class discussion of drafts is intended not only to give students a sense of their audience as writers, but also to develop a sense of context for their writing. This class is intended for students who have already established their writing foundations in EN 2950, and who are prepared to explore short fiction structurally and in terms of the shifting content expectations of contemporary audiences.

TRANSFERABILITY:

University of Alberta (WRITE 395)

University of Calgary (English 366)

University of Lethbridge (ENGL 3800)

Athabasca University (ENGL 381)

MacEwan University (ENGL 214)

Mount Royal University (ENGL 2266)

**** 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:

In-Class Participation (including weekly assignments)	40%
Workshop submission piece and response	10%
Mid-term portfolio (due Feb 25)	20%
Final portfolio (due on final exam date)	30%

Mid-term portfolio submissions are subject to late penalties of 1% per day to a maximum of a 10% deduction. Weekends count as one day.

Assignments requiring paper submissions will be accepted only on their due dates.

No late final portfolios will be accepted.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Attendance. Even more than a regular English class, this course requires your presence. Showing up is fundamental. Each unexcused absence will result in a significant deduction from your participation grade. Students with a significant number of excused absences may be required to submit a “make up” assignment to balance the weight of missed classes.
2. Workshop presentation. 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 in PDF format well in advance of the class meeting for which you are scheduled. (For a Monday class, submit by Friday noon. For a Wednesday class submit by Monday noon. Materials submitted after noon will be assessed a late penalty.) In addition to the story-piece being critiqued, students should prepare a short statement on the process of their writing to date and their goals for the story.
3. Critiques of work. It is each student's responsibility to read the writing samples for that week's class at least twice, to take notes on them, and to offer constructive suggestions for the editing process.
4. Participation in this class involves regular assignments. Some will be presented within the class. Others will form the foundation of term work. None of these assignments are optional.

5. Respectful dialogue. The workshop process is essential to professional writing, and to the development of writing communities. 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. Don't be personal.

6. 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 comments into your edited works.

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/>

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

(Except for week 1, each week's content indicates an assigned reading chapter from *A Passion for Narrative*.)

Week 1: Introduction & welcome

Week 2: The Natural Storyteller

Week 3: Getting Started

Week 4: One Good Sentence After Another

Week 5: Setting

Week 6: Character

Week 7: Plot

Week 8: Structure

Week 9: Point of View and Voice

Week 10: Making Connections

Week 11: Revising

Week 12: Breathing from Some Other World

Week 13: A Postscript