



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of English
ENGL 336 | Winter 2021
Creative Writing 2
Remote Delivery

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Heather Debling
Email: hdebling@uwaterloo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to assist advanced creative writers in developing a body of work in one or more genres by means of writing workshops, readings, discussions of craft, and research presentations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have demonstrated the ability to

- create a portfolio of creative writing in their chosen genre(s);
- identify the fundamental elements of creative writing;
- analyze and respond critically to published writing and the work of their peers;
- evaluate and reflect on their writing process; and
- apply peer and instructor feedback to revisions.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER REQUIRED/SUGGESTED READINGS

While there is no required text, you will be expected to read in your chosen genre(s), as well as read the assigned texts posted on LEARN throughout the semester. You will be required to purchase a current literary magazine for your research presentation (print or digital).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Participation	25%
<i>Includes participation in weekly class discussions and writing workshops</i>	
Writing Exercises	10%
<i>Completion mark</i>	
Process Reflection	5%

Research Presentation	10%
Portfolio	50%
<i>Includes creative writing, annotated reading list, and revision notes</i>	

See the assignment instructions for more information on each submission and the course schedule for due dates. All assignments are due by 11:59 pm (ET) on the due date.

COURSE FORMAT AND REMOTE DELIVERY

The focus of this course is your development as a writer, so much of the work you'll be doing will be independent. You should anticipate spending the bulk of your time each week writing¹ and reading in your chosen genre. You'll be developing an individual writing and reading plan during Week 1 to guide your work throughout the semester. The work submitted must be written for this class (i.e., do not hand in stories or poems written for other classes or which were written before Fall 2020).

The work you'll be doing independently will be supported by weekly lectures and discussions on craft topics and readings, as well as creative exploration and application of craft topics through weekly writing exercises.

Workshops are an essential part of this course. You'll receive constructive feedback on your work from your peers in writing workshops and offer your feedback on their work.

Here is an overview of how our course will be delivered remotely:

- *Lectures and readings (every week)*: I will post a weekly lecture and links to related readings every Monday. These lectures will cover craft and process topics, as well as assigned readings that illustrate each week's concepts and which will be used as the basis of our weekly reading, craft and/or process discussions.
- *Workshops (Weeks 3-10)*: You will have **two** workshops: one during Round 1 (Weeks 3-6) and one during Round 2 (Weeks 7-10). You'll be signing up for your workshop slots during Week 1. For each workshop submission, you must post your submission by end of day the Wednesday **before** your piece is to be discussed. Each week we have workshops scheduled, the workshop discussions will be open from **Wednesday at 1:00 PM till Friday at 1:00 PM (Eastern Time)**. **Your initial comments should be posted by the time discussion starts on Wednesday at 1:00 PM ET.** You can then add additional comments and replies until the workshop discussion ends on Friday at 1:00 PM ET.

¹ By "writing" I mean exploring, freewriting, planning/outlining, character and world building, drafting, re-envisioning, revising, etc.

- *You do not have to be checking in throughout the entire workshop discussion time. After posting your initial comments, plan to check-in 2-3 times to post replies during the workshop.*
- *See the Workshop Guidelines post on LEARN for more information.*
- *Discussions:* There will be weekly process, craft and/or reading discussions each week. These discussions will open Monday through Friday each week.
- *Weekly Writing Exercises (Weeks 1-10):* Due by end of day Friday. *You will only be graded for completing the task, not for the quality of the material, and you will not receive feedback on these exercises.* Exercises should be uploaded to LEARN as a document or as photos (if you prefer to write by hand). If uploading photos, the text must be legible.
- *Additional Resources:* Throughout the course I'll be posting additional materials that may be of interest to you. These materials are not "required" but are offered as a way to further your exploration of certain topics that are useful to your writing and your development as a writer. These resources will be posted on LEARN.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This course schedule is intended as a guide and may need to be adapted as the course progresses. I've included all the workshop submission dates, but you will only be submitting once during each round of workshops.

WEEK 1 (January 11-15): BEGINNINGS

Topics:

- Welcome
- Course overview
- Writing workshops
- Reading as a writer
- Reflection: Your writing/writer self

Workshops + Discussions:

- Introductions
- Workshop sign-ups

Assignments:

- Weekly Writing Exercise #1 due January 15th
- Writing and Reading Plan due January 18th

WEEK 2 (January 18-22): BEGINNINGS (AGAIN)

Topics:

- Ideas, inspiration and imitation

- Creative research
- Paying attention and the writer as witness
- Openings

Workshops + Discussions:

- Craft and reading discussions

Assignments:

- R1W1 Workshop submissions due January 20th
- Weekly Writing Exercise #2 due January 22nd

WEEK 3 (January 25-29): CHARACTER

Topics:

- Types of characters
- Methods of building and revealing character
- Characters as action
- Objects

Workshops + Discussions:

- Craft and reading discussions
- R1W1 Workshops (Wednesday at 1 PM to Friday at 1 PM ET)

Assignments:

- R1W2 Workshop submissions due January 27th
- Weekly Writing Exercise #3 due January 29th

WEEK 4 (February 1-5): STRUCTURE AND FORM

Topics:

- Narrative arc
- Conflict, Crisis and Resolution
- Story and plot
- Structure for longer works
- Poetic forms and meaning
- Creative constraints

Workshops + Discussions:

- Craft and reading discussions
- R1W2 Workshops (Wednesday at 1 PM to Friday at 1 PM ET)

Assignments:

- R1W3 Workshop submissions due February 3rd
- Weekly Writing Exercise #4 due February 5th

WEEK 5 (February 8-12): STRUCTURE AND FORM (CONTINUED) AND THEME

Topics:

- Structure and form (continued)
 - Experiments with form
 - Free verse
 - Line breaks
- Theme

Workshops + Discussions:

- Reading discussion
- R1W3 Workshops (Wednesday at 1 PM to Friday at 1 PM ET)

Assignments:

- R1W4 Workshop submissions due February 10th
- Weekly Writing Exercise #5 due February 12th

WEEK 6 (February 22-26): VOICE, POINT OF VIEW AND DIALOGUE

Topics:

- POV
- Dialogue
- Diction, tone and voice
- The Listener/Audience

Workshops + Discussions:

- Craft and reading discussions
- R1W4 Workshops (Wednesday at 1 PM to Friday at 1 PM ET)

Assignments:

- R2W1 Workshop submissions (including Reflection #2) due February 24th
- Weekly Writing Exercise #6 due February 26th

WEEK 7 (MARCH 1-5): PLACE, SETTING AND TIME

Topics:

- Setting and place
- World building
- Fictional time

Workshops + Discussions:

- Craft and reading discussions
- R2W1 Workshops (Wednesday at 1 PM to Friday at 1 PM ET)

Assignments:

- R2W2 Workshop submissions due March 3rd
- Weekly Writing Exercise #7 due March 5th
- Process Reflection due March 5th

WEEK 8 (MARCH 8-12): IMAGERY, DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE AND SOUND

Topics:

- Imagery and descriptive language
 - Images – Central and recurring
 - Imagery in relation to theme
 - Sensory details
 - Showing versus telling
- Sound
 - Diction and tone
 - Meter, rhyme and rhythm

Workshops + Discussions:

- Craft and reading discussions
- R2W2 Workshops (Wednesday at 1 PM to Friday at 1 PM ET)

Assignments:

- R2W3 Workshop submissions due March 10th
- Weekly Writing Exercise #8 due March 12th

WEEK 9 (MARCH 17-19): REVISION

Topics:

- Revision: “The Big Picture”
- Revision as a creative act
- Revision strategies

Workshops + Discussions:

- Craft and reading discussions
- R2W3 Workshops (Wednesday at 1 PM to Friday at 1 PM ET)

Assignments:

- R2W4 Workshop submissions due March 17th
- Weekly Writing Exercise #9 due March 19th

WEEK 10 (March 22-26): REVISION (CONTINUED)

Topics:

- Revision at the scene, paragraph, and sentence levels
- Handling feedback

Workshops + Discussions:

- Craft and reading discussions
- R2W4 Workshops (Wednesday at 1 PM to Friday at 1 PM ET)

Assignments:

- Weekly Writing Exercise #10 due March 26th

WEEK 11 (MARCH 29-APRIL 2): YOUR WORK IN THE WORLD - PUBLISHING

Topics:

- Publishing landscape
- Markets for short works
- Longer works: Agents, publishers and self-publishing
- Marketing yourself as a writer
- Submissions
- Handling rejection

Workshops + Discussions:

- Publishing discussion

Assignments:

- Research presentations due March 29th

WEEK 12 (APRIL 5-9): SUSTAINING YOURSELF AS A WRITER OR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Topics:

- Continuing education and development
- Writing during challenge times

Workshops + Discussions:

- Process discussion

FINAL PORTFOLIO DUE APRIL 12, 2021

POLICY ON LATE WORK, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, AND MAKE-UP TESTS

Handing in assignments on time is imperative as there is a short interval between submission dates and workshops. Late assignments will lose 10% per day to a maximum of 3 days. No assignments will be accepted later than this and a grade of zero will be awarded. The penalty for late workshop submissions will be applied to the final portfolio. Any arrangements for extenuating circumstances are at the discretion of the instructor.

CORRESPONDENCE

You can contact me via email with any questions you have and will try to respond within 1-2 business days, but keep in mind that I am unable to provide in-depth responses about assignments or readings via email. I'm happy to set up a virtual office meeting to discuss more in-depth questions about the course and your progress on your portfolio. You can use [this link](#) to book a meeting time.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. St. Jerome's University is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Petitions and Grievances](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check the [Guidelines for](#)

[the Assessment of Penalties.](#)

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University policy on [Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Intellectual Property: Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor and/or St. Jerome's University. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g.,
- PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments,
- quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or used
- by the instructor with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor and/or St. Jerome's University for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: All of us need a support system. The SJU faculty and staff encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed.

On Campus:

- SJU Wellness Coordinator: Lindsay Thompson (lindsay.thompson@uwaterloo.ca)
- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 x32655
- **MATES**: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7:

- **Good2Talk**: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 x6880
- **Here 24/7**: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME**: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 x213

Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts [website](#).

Download [UW and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information