

CREATIVITY FOR WRITERS

WRCR6215

Course Outline

Description:

For many writers the most terrifying thing is the blank page. We are stumped about how to begin, have difficulty finding good ideas or stories to write about, and have a hard time finding a fresh take on what we want to write about. This course is for any writer who needs help igniting the creative spark to start writing. This course is for the fiction writer, non-fiction writer, memoirist, or freelance journalist. In this course we will examine numerous techniques and methods that unleash the imagination and will get you writing fresh and exciting work.

Course Goals:

The goal of this course is to enable students to generate ideas for their writing whether they are fiction or non-fiction writers..

Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Develop story ideas when and where they need them.
- Identify sources and inspirations for future projects.
- Utilize a variety of techniques to motivate their writing process and help them push past blocks.

Evaluation:

1. *Creative blog*

One of the best ways to learn about writing is to write. Each student is required to maintain a creative blog. You will write and post a minimum 200 word blog post once per week for the duration of the course. Your blog will be concerned with ideas and observations about writing.

25 percent

2. *Childhood memory*

You will write a 250 word description of your most vivid and earliest memory. Please answer how it could be used in a story.

15 percent

3. *Dream*

You will write a 250 word description of your most vivid and interesting dream. Please answer how it could be used in a story.

15 percent

4. *Historical figure*

You will write a 250 word description of your most intriguing figure from history. Please answer how it could be used in a story.

15 percent

5. *Artwork – DUE March 6*

You will write a 250 word description of one of the artworks listed below. You can follow the links to view the art. You will have to do a little research about the piece and artist. Please answer how it could be used in a story.

15 percent

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- a) Diego Velázquez, Las Meninas
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Meninas
- b) Kent Monkman, The Academy, 2008
<http://touquetouque.tumblr.com/post/11996539538/kent-monkman-the-academy-2008-artist-of-the>
- c) Joseph Beuys, Das Rudel (The Pack)
<http://knockaround.com/2010/12/joseph-beuys/>
- d) Roy Lichtenstein, Drowning Girl,
<http://www.easyart.com/art-prints/Roy-Lichtenstein/Drowning-Girl-6926.html>
- e) Georges Seurat, Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte,
<http://www.wikipaintings.org/en/georges-seurat/sunday-afternoon-on-the-island-of-la-grande-jatte-1886>
- f) Pablo Picasso, Guernica,
<http://www.pablocicasso.org/guernica.jsp>
- g) Francisco Goya, The Third of May 1808,
<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/~nigro20e/classweb/Third%20of%20May.html>
- h) Frida Kahlo, Self Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird,
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Frida_Kahlo_\(self_portrait\).jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Frida_Kahlo_(self_portrait).jpg)

6. Participation

Participation will consist of posting questions and supplying feedback to your fellow students. As well, reading your classmates' blogs and posting your comments there. 15 percent.

Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct:

Academic honesty is a cornerstone of conduct at Western University. We cannot have freedom of expression without integrity. Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences; please refer to the section on "Scholastic Offences" in the current University Academic Calendar, or on the web at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in this University or elsewhere (without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom the work is submitted). Students enrolled in non-degree courses are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct.

Code of Student Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For the complete Code of Student Conduct: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>

Plagiarism

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All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Course Schedule:

Session 1. Introductions and blogs

Introductions and review the course structure and assignments.

Session 2. Blending Fact and fiction

Determining your style of writing and level of research.

Session 3. Robbing the cradle, the grave and from books

Common sources of fiction.

Session 4. Sources for non-fiction – journalism

Common sources for non-fiction.

Session 5. Showing up to work

Setting up a writing routine.

Session 6. Don't be a chimp

Mastery of the craft.

Session 7. Mining the news, dreams and other sources

Other sources of stories.

Session 8. The writing process

Five steps of writing.