Course Description

This course's primary aim is to help students develop their own writing process, and it is geared specifically for academic writing problems (ranging from the selection of an essay topic all the way to editing/revision). Further, this course will ask what it means to write academically while studying in the Faculty of Arts—what the aims of artistic/humanistic study are, what art itself is, and why writing about the arts is a practical skill that translates to a variety of different professions. Thus, this course argues that students can improve their writing abilities in general while both considering their own fields of expertise and by discussing the most difficult and vague of topics: Art.

Required Texts


*All other required readings will be placed on a shared Google Drive folder*

Recommended Texts

Assignments (Double spaced, 12-pt font, MLA citations)

Journal, 10%:

*One page journal entries (weekly, but submitted every 3 weeks)*

Write a journal entry reflecting on weekly readings, but with a twist: create entries from yourself in different times, in different forms. This can include anything, like a 5-minute scripted podcast, or a simple written entry (these are just some ideas, we can discuss this as a class). Try to experiment with how you normally express yourself and consider how different sentence structures, formats, and genres can be used to get your meaning across. Each written entry should be 1 page long (or equivalent). Please prepare your future journal for each Thursday Workshop, as you could be asked to share sometimes.

Written Narrative, 20%:

*750 word story*

Take a story from your life or create one and write a short story. Students will start to get a handle on their writing process, in particular focusing on content, form, mechanics, and voice. This assignment requires the completion of:

- Peer Review Workshop, 5% Bring four copies of your Written Narrative draft to class for peer discussion and revision. Students will be required to both give and take advice in a professional manner, which involves pointing out both strengths and flaws. All advice should be provided in a constructive manner.
- **Final Draft, 15%**

Argument Essay, 25%:

*1000 word essay*

Select one of the course readings we have discussed so far or consult the course instructor to discuss selecting a topic. The purpose of this assignment is to have a dialogue with a piece of critical writing, especially focusing on important elements of argumentation such as organization, persuasion (rhetoric), citation, and essay basics such as introductions, conclusions, thesis statements, and transitions. This assignment requires the completion of:

- Peer Review Workshop, 5% Bring four copies of your Argument Essay draft (750 words) to class for peer discussion and revision.
- **Final Draft, 20%**

Research Essay, 35%:

*1500 word essay*

Students will select a topic relevant to their own research interests or field of study, which will be agreed upon between the Course Instructor and each student. Research practices will be pivotal for this assignment, as will all the skills developed throughout the course. This
assignment requires the completion of:

- **Research Topic Presentation, 2.5%**  Prepare a 5-minute presentation about your Research Paper topic. Due to class sizes, this will be a lengthy process and it is vital to stay on schedule. Practice your reading with a timer to ensure you are not going past the 5-minute window.

- **Annotated Bibliography and Outline, 2.5%**  Prepare a document outlining the structure of your research essay. Also include a bibliography of at least 3 sources with a 250-word annotation for each outlining why you think each source is useful for your research.

- **Peer Review Workshop, 5%**  Bring four copies of your Research Essay draft (1000 words) for peer discussion and revision. This can be a particular section or pieces of your essay that you would like to have read by someone else.

- **Final Draft, 25%**

**Participation and Preparation, 10%:**

Students are expected to attend all classes and workshops. Further, students are required to prepare for each class. This includes completing readings, bringing required texts to class, and coming to class ready to discuss readings (and to write).
*All major assignments should be submitted via the course’s dropbox. All due dates will fall on a Thursday Workshop session. If you have objections to submitting electronic copies we can discuss this and find ways to accommodate you.

Course Policies

Attendance, Participation, and Late Submission

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend all lectures and workshops. Students must bring course texts to class and come to class prepared to take part in discussions of assigned readings, as well as any in-class exercises, group work (including peer editing), etc. More than two unexcused absences will result in a docking of your participation grade by 5%. Further absences will result in a failing participation grade.

Late Submission: Assignments must be handed in on the due date, unless an extension has been granted by the instructor in advance or a doctor’s note has been provided. If there is any reason for submitting an assignment late, notify the course instructor prior to the deadline, NOT after. A penalty of 5% per assignment, per day (including weekends and holidays) will be applied to late assignments for which no extension has been granted.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage and the Arts Academic Integrity webpage for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. 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 professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.
Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), 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 the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Mental Health Support
All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus
Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 xt 32655
MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek form 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: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
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 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website. Download UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF). Download the WatSafe app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.