English 335  (at Renison College)

Dr. Judith Miller

This course will emphasize structure and technique, with a view to developing self-editing skills. It works from the assumption that principles are more important than formulae. Four genres will be practised: poem, short story, drama and creative non-fiction.

Classroom methods will include 1) identification of characteristics and elements, 2) analysis of models, 3) writing exercises, 4) editing exercises, 5) readings by established writers and by students in the class, 6) discussion.

Students will complete an assignment in each "unit" of the course. This assignment will be a piece of creative writing of the student's own design or may be a piece following a model. The submission will include analysis of the piece, using the principles developed in the course. A final assignment, in the student's choice of genre, will present a polished piece of writing and commentary on it. The four term pieces, of equal weight, will be 70% of the course grade. The final assignment will count for the remaining 30%.