

Course Description

This course emphasizes knowledge and skills related to the craft of writing. Students will analyze models of effective writing; use a workshop approach to produce a range of works; identify and use techniques required specialized forms of writing; and identify effective ways to improve the quality of their writing. They will also complete a major composition as part of an independent study unit.

Overall Curriculum Expectations:

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Produce writing for a range of purposes and audiences with an emphasis on well-developed content and the effective use of appropriate forms, techniques, diction, voice, and style;
2. Assess the effectiveness of both their own and others' written work.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Language Studies (5 weeks)

Students will study and apply concepts from John Gardner's *The Art of Fiction* to strengthen their diction choices, syntax clarity and sentence variety. Students will also complete writing exercises from Anne Bernays and Pamela Painter's *What If*, and Janet Borroway's *Writing Fiction*.

Evaluations may include:

Writer's notebook, epiphany, character sketch, vignettes, neighbourhood description, common errors test, various in-class writing.

Specific Expectations

- Exploration of personal motivations for writing
- Investigation of different purposes and styles
- Creative workshop activities, free writes, writing exercises
- Analysis various prose styles

Unit 2: Studies of Fiction (5 weeks)

Students will read a selection of minimalist (Raymond Carver, Ann Beattie, Tobias Wolff), realistic (Tim O'Brien, James Joyce, Sandra Cisneros), and surrealistic (Franz Kafka, Haruki Murakami) short stories, study the elements of short stories, and write their own epiphanies and other forms of narrative fiction.

Students may read a selection of contemporary poets from various texts (including James Fenton's *An Introduction to English Poetry* and student poetry from *Urban Voices*). Students will respond to a variety of writing prompts such as art and music.

Evaluations may include:

Dialogue exercises, dialogue test, surrealistic composition, POV writing, creative writing exercises, works-in-progress and draft development.

Specific Expectations

- Introduction to different types of narration and point of view
- Exploration of style: voice, clarity and conciseness
- Investigation of the elements of the story
- Studies of genres of fiction and poetic forms

Unit 3: Non-Fiction Prose (4 weeks)

Students will study examples of Journalism from newspapers and magazines (including Michael Herr, Darcy Frey, and Barbara Ehrenreich). Students will practise such journalistic types as feature writing, column/opinion pieces, and news reporting.

Students will study a selection of travel literature (including readings from Jan Wong, Pico Iyer, Mark Salzman, Nawal El Saadawi, Paul Theroux, and others) and write their own travel piece or urban adventure.

Evaluations may include:

An article (proposal, draft, peer-edit, and final copy), travel piece (Final Exam).

Specific Expectations:

- Analysis of various non-fiction prose pieces for style and purpose (show and tell)
- Exploration of investigation journalism
- Study of the non-fiction writing process: query, investigations, and interviews

Unit 4: Independent Study Project (2 weeks)

Students will write and workshop their own piece of writing (narrative fiction)

Evaluations will include:

Draft, workshop, reflection, presentation, and final project.

Specific Expectations:

- Practice the writing process
- Use peer-edit feedback, personal research

Evaluation:

Term Work: Practising and Investigating the Writer's Craft 70%

Culminating Activities: ISU 15%
Final Exam 15%

Unit	Assignment	Practising the Writer's Craft	Investigating the Writer's Craft	Reflecting on the Writer's Craft	
1	Vignette Assignment	X			70%
1	Neighbourhood Assignment	X			
1	Character Sketch	X			
1	Epiphany Assignment	X			
2	Writer's Notebook #1			X	
2	Point of View Assignment	X			
2	Dialogue Test		X		
2	Common Errors Test		X		
2	Magic Realist/Surrealist Piece	X			
2	Short Story Test		X		
3	Feature Article	X			
3	Travel literature Test		X		
3	Writer's Notebook #2			X	

Culminating Activities/Final Assessment

4	ISU Process, Presentation, Reflection, Story	X	X	X	30%
5	Travel Literature Exam	X	X		

English Department Policies:

Students are reminded that deadlines are an important aspect of time and workload management in this course. If, for any reason you are unable to meet your deadlines, please consult with your teacher before the assignment is due. A penalty may be applied.

Plagiarism from outside sources or copying another student's work is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. **DO NOT LEND YOUR WORK.** Both the borrower and the lender will be penalized. Be advised that a mark of zero may be the result and that parents will be notified.

Work missed and covered by a doctor's note must still be made up. You are not excused from completing class assignments. Consult with your teacher as soon as you return to school.

Oral presentations will not be rescheduled due to absences. You may forfeit the oral portion of the mark if you miss class. All group members share responsibility for the work assigned. Be respectful of your classmates.

A missed test or piece of in-class writing must be made up within one week of being assigned. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for the makeup date. Students who continually miss such assignments may forfeit the opportunity to rewrite