

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**The Creative Moment****English 2091G (001)**

Winter 2020

**Instructor:** Nino Ricci  
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**Course Location:** [see Fall/Winter 2019-20  
Western Timetable](#)

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 3-4:30 pm or by  
appointment

**Course Date/Time:** [see Fall/Winter 2019-20  
Western Timetable](#)

Course Description

This course will explore some of the factors that govern creativity, examining significant historical examples of turning-point moments across a range of disciplines and using literary texts as a way of exploring how evolution in the arts feeds and is fed by evolution in other fields. The course will begin with a broad overview of creativity and then focus on three distinct cultural moments: the rise of drama in Elizabethan England, the birth of modernism in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the sudden flourishing of Canadian culture in the 1960s.

**Objectives:**

By the end of the course, successful students will have:

- enhanced their understanding of the creative process and of those social and historical forces that promote creativity and of those that suppress it;
- improved their ability to analyse works of literature within their historical context and to identify tropes and themes of creativity within them;
- learned practical ways of enhancing creativity in their own work.

Course Materials**Required Texts:**

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. Oxford University Press, 2010.

Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse*. Oxford University Press, 2008.

Munro, Alice. *Lives of Girls and Women*. Vintage, 2015.

- In addition, a course pack will be provided with readings exploring recent research on creativity and offering relevant historical and cultural context for each of the three literary texts.

Methods of Evaluation

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|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Weekly Quizzes on Assigned Readings: | 15% |
| Attendance and Participation:        | 10% |
| Journal Assignment (3-4 pages):      | 15% |
| Writing Assignment #1 (1000 words):  | 20% |
| Writing Assignment #2 (1750 words):  | 40% |

Guidelines for writing assignments will be discussed early in the term. Students will be encouraged to be creative in their choice of topics and formats.

**Attendance:**

This class depends upon regular attendance and active participation from all students. Attendance will be taken every class. A verbal or emailed explanation is sufficient for a single class missed due to emergency or illness; for repeated absences, students should see the academic counsellor in their dean's office to arrange an accommodation in order to avoid a penalty.

Students should come to class having completed the assigned readings and able to discuss them in class when called on to do so.

**Late Assignments:**

Assignments are due on the dates specified and should be submitted by class time in the student's assigned drop box for the course on the university's OWL system. Students having difficulty with the OWL system may submit a hard copy instead.

One per cent per day (including weekends) will be deducted from late assignments. No assignments will be accepted later than two weeks past the due date.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

**Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

**Plagiarism Checking:**

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 for such checking 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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.