

Creative Writing Workshop

English 4899G

Winter 2024

Department of English and Writing Studies &
The School for Advanced Studies in the Arts & Humanities
University of Western Ontario

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Course Hours and Location:

Thursdays, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm; Room 4401, University College

Office Hours:

Thursdays, 2:30 pm – 3:14 pm; Room 2414, UC. Please email by Wednesday night for an appointment.

Course Description

This Creative Writing Workshop will involve the usual elements: in-class and out-of-class writing exercises, a long-term writing project that will be handed in at the end of term, reading the assigned texts, reading the work of other students, reflecting on the work of other students, and lectures.

Prerequisites

None.

Learning Outcomes / Course Objectives

Students should come out of this class with a deeper feeling for their own voice as a writer, and a keener sense of what they are interested in doing, artistically. We will hope to sharpen our critical skills towards our own work. Thinking about the different ways of editing and revising our own work will also be a focus of our thought. The professor will demonstrate the stages she proceeded through in writing two of her books, *Motherhood* and *How Should a Person Be?* which will be required reading for the class. We will learn to talk about each others' work in productive ways.

Course Schedule

Week 1, January 11 – Introduction.

Week 2, January 18 –

Week 3, January 25 – First assignment due.

Week 4, February 1 – Please have read *How Should a Person Be?*

Week 5, February 8 –

Week 6, February 15 –

Reading Week

Week 7, February 29 – Second assignment due.

Week 8, March 7 – Please have read *Motherhood*.

Week 9, March 14 –

Week 10, March 21 – Third assignment due.

Week 11 – March 28 –

Week 12 – April 4 – Conclusion.

Course Texts:

How Should a Person Be? by Sheila Heti

Motherhood by Sheila Heti

Various short stories and excerpts that will be distributed week by week.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Being on time is mandatory. Being on time means being in class one minute before class begins. Attendance (and being on time) will be part of your grade. There will be a break in the middle of class (for 10-15 mins) and we will officially end at 9:20 pm.

Methods of Evaluation

In-Class Participation	25%		
Assignment 1	10%	Length: 500 words	Due: January 25
Assignment 2	10%	Length: 1000 words	Due: February 29
Assignment 3	10%	Length: 500 words	Due March 21
In-Class Portfolio	20%	Length: N/A	Due: April 4
Final Project	20%	Length: 2500 words	Due: April 4

In-Class Participation refers to showing up on time and participating in class discussions.

Assignment 1 To be discussed in class.

Assignment 2 To be discussed in class.

Assignment 3 To be discussed in class.

Your **In-Class Portfolio** will be a collection of all the written exercises that we will do in class and outside of class; keep these, as they will be handed in at the end of term.

Your **Final Paper** will be determined in consultation with the professor and can take many forms (in prose; not poetry).

OWL

We will not be using OWL. I will be sending out emails, instead.

Chat GPT AI is very exciting, and Chat GPT and related software can be used in creative and interesting ways. You are welcome to request permission to use AI, if you have a good reason to think that it will help your own creative thinking and writing. But unless permission is requested of the professor in advance (and permission is granted!) then any assignment that is found to be written with the aid of Chat GPT or any other AI technology will receive a grade of zero.

Plagiarism The purpose of school is to develop your own style of writing and thinking, and to learn by thinking and writing; plagiarism is unacceptable. If you think someone has said it better than you can, and you wish to use their words, then you have to indicate that these certain words are not your own, and cite the person whose words they are. Plagiarism is a major academic offense and those who plagiarize will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and may be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Please note that the university requires professors to put a note about plagiarism in the syllabus.

Religious Accommodation When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday which requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, you must request accommodation for your absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration, and notify the professor at the same time of your future absence. Please consult

University's list of recognized religious holidays, updated annually
(<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>).

Medical Accommodation If you are unable to meet a course requirement (such as regular attendance, assignments, and the final paper) due to illness or other serious circumstances, then you must request an exception from your Faculty of Registration. You will be asked to provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible.

For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Support Services Students who are in emotional or mental distress should refer to

MentalHealth@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.