



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION
COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2014

EN2950 (A2/VC) Introduction to Creative writing: prose - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anna Lapointe **PHONE:** 780-539-2992
OFFICE: C420 **E-MAIL:** alapointe@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays & Fridays 1:30-3:00pm

PREREQUISITE: 6 credits of junior English. Students without the prerequisite may not receive credit for this course

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*. Boston: Shambhala, 2005.
- Browne, Renni, & Dave King. *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers: How to Edit Yourself into Print*. 2nd edition. New York: HarperCollins, 2004.

Additional readings are posted on Moodle in .pdf and hyperlink form. Students are responsible for ensuring that they can access these files.

RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED

- Pyrcz, Heather. *Writing With Style: Grammar in Context*. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: At an introductory level, this course emphasizes the principles and practices of writing publishable prose. Students are encouraged to write in various genres aimed at traditional publication or other markets.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3 credits / 3 hours per week

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture/Discussion

DESCRIPTION OF THIS COURSE: This class will introduce students to writing creatively for an audience. Students will examine the structures of writing and develop new work in response to class assignments. However, the core of the course is the necessary practice of critique for editing. When we cease to write only for ourselves, we confront a new and sometimes frightening question: How can this be better? There is always an answer, and often several. No work is perfect in itself. Students will learn to read their own work and the work of others with revision in mind, to offer constructive criticism to their peers, and to return to their own writing with a determination to revise and edit their initial creation into a finished story.

TRANSFERABILITY:

- Athabasca University: ENGL 2xx (3)
- Canadian University College: ENGL 1xx (3)
- Grant MacEwan University: ENGL 103/1xx (6)
- Grant MacEwan University: ENGL 103 (3)
- King's University College: ENGL 2xx (3)
- University of Alberta: ENGL 124 (3)
- University of Calgary: Jr. ENGL (3)
- University of Lethbridge: ENGL 1xxx (3)

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

STUDENT PRINTING POLICY:

It is the responsibility of each academic department to ensure that their students are not required to print more than the amount provided by this policy. If the requirements of the program are such that additional printing cannot be avoided, it is the responsibility of the department to ensure that their students are aware of this policy, and that additional charges for printing should be expected.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Grading for this class differs from a standard English course. There is no single standard which students are expected to meet. Students enrolled in this course differ in experience and skill levels; those will not be the primary source of evaluation. Instead, students will be evaluated on the following criteria: contribution to class workshops, completion of course work, incorporation of critiques into edited work,

and overall improvement. These criteria are intended to emphasize commitment to the process of writing and improvement over the course of the term.

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATIONS:

Weekly assignments	30%
Final portfolio	30%
Presentation of work/response to critiques	10%
Participation (including in-class constructive critiques)	20%
Self-Evaluation	10%

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Attendance. Even more than a regular English class, this course requires your presence. Showing up is fundamental.

2. Presentation of work for critique. Once in the course, students will bring a sample of their work for class critique. It is essential that you provide your sample to the instructor well in advance of the class meeting for which you are scheduled. (For a Monday class, submit by Friday noon. For a Wednesday class submit by Monday noon.)

3. Critiques of work. It is each student's responsibility to read the writing samples for that week's class at least twice, to take notes on them, and to offer constructive suggestions for the editing process.

4. Submission of weekly assignments. Students will be given writing prompts each week, for submission the following week. These are intended to keep students writing new work, and thinking about the writing process. Students are required to submit eight of these in the course of the term. They will only be accepted on their due date. All assignments will be returned the following week with comments and suggestions. Because of the volume of material involved, I cannot accept late assignments. Students must submit at least **eight** weekly assignments to receive full credit.

5. Respectful dialogue. The workshop process is essential to professional writing, and to the development of writing communities. Rudeness, power plays, hate speech, and personal attacks will not be tolerated. It is important to remember that our focus is on the work and not the author. Don't be personal.

6. Receptivity. All writers have moments of resentment in the workshop process. I call this process "You don't understand my genius!" This is a normal feeling, but keep it to yourself. Be prepared to listen to critiques thoughtfully and politely, and be prepared to incorporate comments into your edited works.

Assignments are due in class and on paper. Multi-page assignments must be stapled (this is not optional; unstapled works will not be accepted). Remember to print on one side of the page only. The library printers' default is to double-side; learn to adjust the settings more than five minutes before your assignment is due.

Students participating by videoconference are subject to slightly different expectations. VC students' assignments are due by e-mail, not later than ½ hour after

class begins. **All VC student submissions must be in .PDF format.** Other formats will not be accepted.

Late submissions of weekly assignments will not be accepted.

Portfolio submissions are subject to late penalties of one third of a letter grade per day. This means that a portfolio due Wednesday and submitted Thursday morning will see its grade reduced from (for example) a B+ to a B, with a subsequent deduction for each additional day late. Weekends count as one day.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, submission of work in one course which has already been submitted in another, failure to cite sources, attempts to communicate with other students during exams, impersonating another student, and purchasing papers online. (This is not a complete list. See the GPRC Academic Calendar pp. 42-43 for details and a list of penalties.*)

*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Within this course, plagiarism includes submitting another person's work as your own and submitting work done for a previous course as new work for this one. Literature has slightly different expectations for plagiarism; we will discuss these standards, and explore how to establish artistic integrity in our own work.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Class 1: Introduction, sign-up for presentations

Week 1: Goldberg 1-24, Browne & King chapter 1

Week 2: Goldberg 25-49, Browne & King chapter 2

Week 3: Goldberg 50-71, Browne & King chapter 3

Week 4: Goldberg 72-97, Browne & King chapter 4

Week 5: Goldberg 98-116, Browne & King chapter 5

Week 6: Goldberg 117-35, Browne & King chapter 6

Week 7: Goldberg 136-55, Browne & King chapter 7

Week 8: Goldberg 156-68, Browne & King chapter 8

Week 9: Goldberg 169-80, Browne & King chapter 9

Week 10: Browne & King chapter 10

Week 11: Browne & King chapter 11

Week 12: Browne & King chapter 12