

## Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

### COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2023

#### EN3950 (A3): Intermediate Creative Writing: Short Fiction – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Anna Lapointe                      **PHONE:** 780-539-2992  
**OFFICE:** C420    **E-MAIL:** alapointe@nwpolytech.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 (in person and on zoom) or by appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** At an intermediate level, this course emphasizes the principles and practices of writing fiction. Students are encouraged to explore established and emerging forms, and to focus on the production of a completed work of fiction.

**PREREQUISITE/COREQUISITE:** EN2950. Students without EN2950 must have 6 credits of junior English and the permission of the instructor to register.

#### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

- Hodgins, Jack. *A Passion for Narrative*. McClelland & Stewart.

All other readings posted to MyClass. Students are responsible for ensuring that they can access the posted files.

**DELIVERY MODE:** Lecture/workshop

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course is intended to guide students in the completion of one or more short stories. The class discussion of drafts is intended not only to give students a sense of their audience as writers, but also to develop a sense of context for their writing. This class is intended for students who have already established their writing foundations in EN 2950, and who are prepared to explore short fiction structurally and in terms of the shifting content expectations of contemporary audiences.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Identify creative writing techniques in works of published short fiction
- Write and edit a complete short story
- Present a work in progress for group feedback
- Offer feedback in a detailed and constructive manner
- Integrate a range of feedback in revising their work for submission

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

\*\* 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**

**EVALUATIONS:**

Attendance & participation	20%
Weekly assignments	30%
Mid-term portfolio	20%
Final portfolio (due on final exam date)	30%

**GRADING CRITERIA:** (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

**COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

This is a tentative timeline based on the assigned text. Additional readings may be added and adjustments made according to the interests and needs of class members. Please complete all readings before the class in which they are taken up.

(Except for week 1, each week's content indicates an assigned reading chapter from *A Passion for Narrative*.)

Week 1: Introduction & welcome

Week 2: The Natural Storyteller

Week 3: Getting Started

Week 4: One Good Sentence After Another

Week 5: Setting

Week 6: Character

Week 7: Plot

Week 8: Structure

Week 9: Point of View and Voice

Week 10: Making Connections

Week 11: Revising

Week 12: Breathing from Some Other World

Week 13: A Postscript

Final portfolio due on exam date (TBA).

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Attendance:** Even more than a regular English class, this course requires your presence. Although we are remote, this course needs your engagement in real time. Showing up is fundamental. **Each unexcused absence will result in a major deduction from your attendance & participation grade.**
  - If your absence is for a legitimate reason (internet disruption, illness, family crisis), **let the instructor know by e-mail.** In your e-mail, please indicate your course number and section. Please send a new e-mail for each class missed for a legitimate reason, or clearly state which days will be missed. E-mailed notices of absence do not automatically “roll over” for future missed dates.
- **Participation:** Simply showing up is not sufficient. You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to the class dialogue. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up. So ask!
- **Missed Material:** Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Slideshows are posted to MyClass, and you are encouraged to ask your classmates for notes. If, **after** you have gone through these materials, you have questions, please contact me and I'll be pleased to clarify.

- **Submission of Weekly Assignments:** Students will be given writing prompts each Monday, for submission the following Monday no later than 4:00pm. These are intended to keep students writing new work and thinking about the writing process. Students must submit **at least six** weekly assignments to receive full credit.
  - Assignments must be submitted to the MyClass dropbox for that assignment. Assignments must be in pdf format. Improperly submitted work will not be accepted. If the dropbox for some reason will not give you access, e-mail your completed assignment to the instructor to prove that you have completed it, then submit on Brightspace when the issue has been resolved.
  - **Late submissions of weekly assignments will not be accepted.**

### STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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

### Additional Information:

- **Office Hours:** My office hours are listed on the first page of this course outline.
  - You don't need an appointment to meet with me during office hours. I meet with students in the order that they show up.
  - This is your time, as much as class is. Please don't feel you're imposing.
  - Office hours cancelled if the instructor is sick. But I'll post an announcement to that effect, and re-schedule when I'm better.
  - If you make an appointment to meet with me outside of regular office hours, please actually attend that meeting, or notify me that you won't be able to make it, so I'm not left humming to myself.
  
- **Preferred Names & Pronouns:** At the course's outset, my list of students' names is based on the register. If you would prefer to be called something else, please let me know, and I will adjust my list accordingly, and use your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments, as well as on your Zoom. (If your preferred surname varies from the name under which you are registered, I may need occasional reminders.)
  - If you want to tell me your pronouns, you should feel free to do so. I will respect your pronouns.

All students are expected to respect their classmates' preferred names and pronouns.

- **Crisis Management:** I'm not a monster, but I'm not psychic, either. If something goes wrong in your life, I won't automatically know. If you let me know, I will work with you to help you keep up/catch up in the course. You are human, and entropy affects us all: crises happen. I will happily work with you to ensure they don't derail your academic career.
- **Important Note:** How you do in the class has no effect on how much I like and respect you. If you submit an assignment late, I will not be ashamed of you or look on you with disgust. If your work is imperfect, it's a sign that there are things you need to learn/I need to help you with; it is not a sign that you are a bad, lazy, or unworthy person.