

Academic Writing (ACWR) 201 L01
Academic Writing for Specialized Audiences I (Introductory)
Stories of Us: Finding Your Voice
Fall 2011
Wednesdays, 11:00 – 13:50; EDC 287
September 14 – December 7, 2011

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Office Hours: Fridays, 10:00 – 12:00 in the Native Centre

Course Description

Welcome to Academic Writing 201, *Stories of Us: Finding Your Voice*. In this course, you will discover what writing is and who you are as a writer. Words don't just appear on the page – writing is hard work. It comes from *being around*, as Hans Gadamer puts it. Mature writers have a cultivated sense of place: they are in tune with sights and smells and memories, and in the process of writing, something emerges on the page that extends beyond their control. In this course, we'll examine several writing strategies, and you'll have opportunity to apply these strategies to both creative and critical writing assignments.

We learn to write largely by imitating other writers – not by producing copies, but by understanding *essence*. Every week, you will read a portion of text *several times*. You will analyze the text, compose questions for group discussion, and respond to the readings in a journal. In the process, you'll gain the skills and confidence you need to express yourself in unencumbered, detailed prose.

Through our discussions and relationships, we'll discover how stories inform our understanding, and we'll construct our own *Story of Us*. You will then have opportunity to publish excerpts of our story in *New Tribe* magazine – you'll leave the course as a published writer.

Objectives of the Course

- ◆To read critically and question what you are reading
- ◆To recognize literary devices in the readings and use them in your own writing

- ◆To develop an effective writing process, from discussing and researching ideas, to producing and editing drafts, to publishing
- ◆To produce five critical and creative pieces of writing using the strategies acquired in mini-lessons
- ◆To critique the writing of classmates and published authors
- ◆To use and cite sources using APA or MLA format

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Laptops and electronic devices are welcome but not necessary in the classroom. Assignments can be typed or handwritten, although the New Tribe submission must be typed.

Textbooks and Readings:

1. The Pearl, John Steinbeck (available at the University of Calgary bookstore)
2. Windflower, Gabrielle Roy (available at the University of Calgary bookstore)
3. Cut it Out, Laura Young (available at the University of Calgary bookstore)
4. Online Readings:

“Nani,” Alberto Rio

<http://researchmag.asu.edu/stories/nani.html>

“Marrakeck,” George Orwell

<http://www.george-orwell.org/Marrakech/0.html>

Assignments and Evaluation

Interactive Journal 10%

The journal is a record of your interaction with The Pearl and Windflower. You will receive a handout with instructions and suggested writing topics.

Portfolio 65%

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| ◆Piece #1: Place | October 5 | (20%) |
| ◆Piece #2: Character/Dialogue | November 2 | (20%) |
| ◆Piece #3: Memory | November 23 | (25%) |

Your portfolio will be assessed for depth, detail, dominant impression, economy of language, grammar/sentence structure/punctuation, and incorporation of mini-lessons. You will receive a handout with detailed instructions.

Public Reading 5%

- ◆November 30
- ◆Read any piece that you've written in class.

Submission to New Tribe 10%

- ◆Submit a piece of writing and a letter of introduction to the editor of New Tribe. The piece of writing will be a rewrite of anything in your portfolio. You will leave this course as a published writer.
- ◆Half of the class will submit to the November issue and half will submit to the December issue. More details will be given in class.
- ◆No late submissions will be accepted.

Final Exam 10%

- ◆In class on December 7
- ◆You will write a critical analysis of *Nani*, by Alberto Rio and *Marrakeck*, by George Orwell.
- ◆Your analysis will draw from mini-lessons and journal assignments.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to the instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Note: There is no registrar-scheduled final exam in this course

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments are due in class at 11:00 am sharp and will be considered late after that time. Late assignments will be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. No assignments will be accepted after December 7.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also**

you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture (Revised, effective September 2008):

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be

able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (MacEwan Student Centre 4th floor, efwr.ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your

research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfrieb>

*If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk, you can sing.
-Zimbabwe proverb*