

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CRWR-152: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction

CLASS SECTION: D-01

TERM: Winter 2024

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Asynchronous Online

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here. Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Michael Stewart (he/him)

EMAIL: stewartm@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul Building, Room 330 (Lansdowne Campus)

HOURS: Monday, 2:00-3:00, Thursday 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

Virtual Office Hours (on Zoom): Wednesday 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course offers students an opportunity to develop their skills in writing major creative nonfiction forms, such as features, memoir, travel, personal essay, history, and social analysis. Students will write creative nonfiction in a style that is as accurate and informative as reportage, yet as provocative and dramatic as fiction.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Produce clear and interesting writing for a general audience.
2. Produce creative non-fiction writing at a beginner level.
3. Critically analyze the creative nonfiction process.
4. Produce essays and articles that explore the world in a personal and creative way.
5. Read, analyze, and discuss published works of creative nonfiction.
6. Evaluate the role of the audience in the development of style and content.
7. Conduct interviews and use electronic tools in order to explore various topics.
8. Submit a query for a manuscript to a publisher.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

You Can't Make This Stuff Up, by Lee Gutkind (Da Capo Press, 2012)

Other course readings are available online through D2L

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK	TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
1	What is Creative Nonfiction?	Student Intros
2	Memoir	Journal #1
3	Making a scene	Journal #2
4	Details Get the Goods	Due: Essay #1 – Memoir
5	Big Public Story	Peer Critique: Essay #1 Journal #3
6	Cultural Critique	Journal #4

WEEK	TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
7	Learning to Braid	Due: Essay #2 – Cultural Critique
8	Peer Critique	Peer Critique: Essay #2
9	Revision: Frame and Focus	Due: The Midterm Portfolio (Mar 8)
10	Braided Essay	Journal #5
11	Segmented Structure	Journal #6
12	Style	Due: Essay #3 – Braided Essay
13	Peer Critique	Peer Critique: Essay #3
14	Publication	Breathe!
	Due: Final Portfolio – Friday, April 12 at midnight	

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
First versions	6
Journal Entries	12
Peer critique	6
Group Discussions	10
Midterm Portfolio	26
Final Portfolio	40
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Work must be submitted on time to allow for timely feedback and to ensure all class members can benefit from the peer critique sessions. Unless the instructor has granted an accommodation, late portfolios will be penalized at 5% per day. Portfolios submitted one week after the respective deadlines will not be graded. All other work must be handed in on time to earn completion grades.

Creative non-fiction is a genre that seeks to find the fullest, most vulnerable, and truest forms of self-expression. The use of artificial intelligence and AI-generated writing might raise interesting questions about what constitutes the self in the twenty-first century, but for the purposes of this course, AI-writing tools like Chat GPT, JasperAI, Quillbot, etc. are strictly prohibited. This includes not only generating writing at any level (final drafts, paragraphs, sentences), but also generating ideas, outlines, or revisions. The use of such tools constitute plagiarism and violate Camosun's Academic Integrity policy.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/

Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun’s Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student’s right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun’s Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College’s Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.