

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CRWR-155: Introduction to Personal Narrative

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: F2023

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In person  
11:30 – 12:50 Monday / Wednesday  
Wilna Thomas 102 / 101

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](#).

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For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

*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 explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.*

## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

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NAME: Julian Gunn  
EMAIL: [gunnj@camosun.ca](mailto:gunnj@camosun.ca)  
OFFICE: Paul 318  
HOURS: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

*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.*

## About Me

Hi, I'm Julian Gunn. I'm delighted to spend the next fourteen weeks exploring personal narrative with you. I'm a writer and an artist as well as an instructor, and I'm also a student of the SENĆOŦEN language. My published work is mostly in memoir and poetry. I have a master's degree in English literature and theory from UVic. I have been a visitor in both Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ territory for about 30 years, though I was born in Prince George, on Lheidli T'enneh territory.

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

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Find your voice as a writer and learn to tell meaningful, compelling stories based on your experience and the experiences of those in your community. You will learn to focus on sensory details and memories so they can be shaped into a story, personal essay, memoir, poem or monologue. You will participate in an inclusive writing community of Canadian, Indigenous and international voices and perspectives and investigate how stories are shaped by the social and cultural context of the times.

#### 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

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Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Recognize and reflect on the value of their own life experiences and observations as a basis for writing;
2. Incorporate individual voices and life experiences, both their own and those of others, into written personal narratives;
3. Examine how creative writing can express values within various historical, cultural, and social contexts and worldviews by reading and analyzing personal narratives from a diversity of personal and cultural viewpoints, including from storytelling traditions.
4. Create detailed, organized narratives in a form suitable to the story, such as memoirs, short stories, orature or poems;
5. Conduct research and use correct documentation appropriate to writing personal narratives;
6. Edit and revise their own work and the work of others as part of the creative process of writing; and
7. Respond critically and respectfully to the ideas of others through discussion and writing

### REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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All reading materials and video links will be provided.

We will write every class, so always have something to write with / on.

Bring your spirit of play and exploration.

To make sure you understand the discussion each week, do the assigned readings and watch any assigned video lessons.

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

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

WEEK	DAY	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	TEXTS	ASSIGNMENTS
1 (Sept 4-10)	Monday, September 4	<i>Statutory Holiday</i>		
	Wednesday, September 6	Workshop Guidelines and Agreements		
2 (Sept 11-17)	Monday, September 11	Truth, Memory, and Point of View	Samuel Delaney, from "The Motion of Light in Water"  Video – truth in personal writing	
	Wednesday, September 13	Form 1: The Shape of Story	Jane Alison, from the introduction to <i>Meander, Spiral, Explode</i>	What Shape is Your Story? (10%) (Due Sunday 11:59 pm)
3 (Sept 18-24)	Monday, September 18	Place and Description	Molly McCully Brown, "If You Are Permanently Lost"	
	Wednesday, September 20		Jackie Bryant, "Life, Death, and the Border Patrol"	
4 (Sept 25 – Oct 1)	Monday, September 25	Responding to Others' Stories	Jen Sookfong Lee, introduction to <i>Gentlemen of the Shade</i>	
	Wednesday, September 27	Oral Histories	Barry Broadfoot (ed.), from <i>Ten Lost Years</i>	
5 (October 2 – 8)	Monday, October 2	<i>Statutory Holiday</i>		
	Wednesday, October 4	Story Exchange Preparation	Video – Story Exchange  Eden Robinson, from <i>The Sasquatch at Home</i>	
6 (October 9 – 15)	Monday, October 9	<i>Statutory Holiday</i>		
	Wednesday, October 11	In-Class Story Exchange	<b>Victoria Festival of Authors Presentations October 11 - 15</b>	Story Exchange and Reflection (15%) (Due Sunday 11:59 pm)
7 (October 16-22)	Monday, October 16	Essay Forms	Allison K. Williams, "A Brief Guide to Essays" (Link)  Danielle Geller, "The Origin of My Laugh" (link)	
	Wednesday, October 18	Dialogue	Video – Writing Dialogue  Dialogue samples	

WEEK	DAY	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	TEXTS	ASSIGNMENTS
8 (October 23-29)	Monday, October 23	Character	Video – Character David Plante, from “Jean Rhys” in <i>Difficult Women</i>	
	Wednesday, October 25	Narration	Narration samples	
9 (October 30 - Nov 5)	Monday, Oct 30	Voice	Jerome Ellis, <i>This American Life</i> segment	Editing Circle Worksheet 1 (5%) Due in class
	Weds, Nov 1	Form 2: Experiments (games)	Logan Timmins, <i>Logan: An Autobiographical Game</i> Avery Alder, <i>Brave Sparrow</i>	Postcard Essay (20%) (Due Sunday 11:59 pm)
10 (November 6 - 12)	Monday, July 10	Form 2: Experiments (games)	Sarah Leavitt, Instagram comics	
	Wednesday, July 12	Form 2: Experiments (autobiographical poetry)  Final Project Discussion	Roxana Bennett, “The Winged Victory of Samothrace”	
11 (Nov 13-19)	Monday, November 13	<i>Statutory holiday</i>		
	Wednesday, November 15	Time and Pacing	Marguerite Duras, from <i>The War</i>  Jane Alison, from <i>Meander, Spiral, Explode</i> (Time)	
12 (Nov 20-26)	Monday, Nov 20	Time and Pacing	Simon Armitage, poems	
	Wednesday, Nov 22	Influence and Inspiration	Student-chosen readings	
13 (Nov 27- Dec 3)	Monday, Nov 27	Editing Circles Revising and Editing	Video – Revising and Editing	Final Project Outline (5%) Editing Circle Worksheet 2 (5%) (Due in class)
	Weds, Nov 29	Individual consultations (sign up)		Final Project (25%) (Due Sunday 11:59 pm)
14 (Dec 4-10)	Monday, Dec 4	Small-group final project presentations and feedback	Student-chosen readings	Final Project Feedback (5%) (Due in class)
	Wednesday, Dec 6	Celebratory reading; course closing circle		

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 noticed 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

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
What Shape is Your Story?	10%
Story Exchange and Reflection	15%
Postcard Essay	20%
Final Project Outline	5%
Editing Circle Feedback 1 & 2 (5% each)	10%
Final Project	25%
Final Project Feedback	5%
Participation	10%
	<b>TOTAL</b> 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](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.  
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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In this class, we work together to create a space that's supportive of everyone's voice. We are all responsible for one another's wellbeing.

Come expecting to write and, hopefully, to share your writing, if you feel able to do so.

See the Workshop Guidelines document for how the class will usually run and what kind of feedback we'll be offering each other.

### Core Concepts

1. Writing belongs to everyone. This means you.
2. Everyone's story matters. This means yours.
3. Everyone's voice is worth hearing. Yep, that's you again.
4. Everyone here is learning how to write, including the instructor.

### Confidentiality

You are free to talk about your own experiences in the writing workshop, or your responses to other students' writing, but do not discuss personal details of these stories with anyone outside the class unless you have the author's clear permission.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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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

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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	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

**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.

### 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](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto: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.