

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CRWR-155-Introduction to Personal Narrative

CLASS SECTION:

TERM: 2024F

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-person

ROOM: Tuesday Wilna Thomas 202 / Thursday Wilna Thomas 101

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Julian Gunn

EMAIL: gunnj@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul 318

HOURS: Tuesday 12:00 – 1:00 and Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00

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 WSÁNEĆ territory for about 33 years, though I was born in Prince George, on Lheidli T'enneh territory.

Small Odysseys: The Epics of Everyday Life

Welcome to *Small Odysseys*, a course for exploring your life's journeys, whether tiny or immense. We'll use playful engagement with a series of story-forms to see what you can discover about your own story and your voice.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

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):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

- Recognize and reflect on the value of their own life experiences and observations as a basis for writing.
- Incorporate individual voices and life experiences, both their own and those of others, into written personal narratives.
- 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.
- Create detailed, organized narratives in a form suitable to the story, such as memoirs, short stories, orature or poems.
- Conduct research and use correct documentation appropriate to writing personal narratives.
- Edit and revise their own work and the work of others as part of the creative process of writing.
- Respond critically and respectfully to the ideas of others through discussion and writing.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

All texts will be provided online and/or as class handouts and slides.

You will be invited to present texts you value to the class, so be thinking about what stories mean a lot to you.

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 OR DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Reading (On D2L unless otherwise specified)	ASSIGNMENTS <i>(Due Friday by 11:59pm)</i>
1 Sept 3 and 5	<p>Beginnings</p> <p>Introductions</p> <p>Muses, guides, and mentor texts</p> <p>Memory and the senses</p>	N/A	
2 Sept 10 and 12	<p>Truth, memory, point of view</p> <p>Meetings and encounters</p> <p>Meeting the other</p> <p>Characterization</p>	N/A	<p>A Story About a Journey (10%)</p> <p>Sept 13</p>
3 Sept 17 and 19	<p>Thresholds, borders, and boundaries</p> <p>Sections and structures</p> <p>The shape of a story</p>	<p>Tuesday “The Motion of Light in Water”</p> <p>Thursday (in class) “Strands of Desire,” (Lydia Zuleta Johnson)</p>	
4 Sept 24 and 26 Week of orange shirt day	<p>Listening</p> <p>Telling others’ stories</p> <p>Retelling exercise and reflection</p> <p><i>(Thursday = writing period)</i></p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Visit from <i>Nexus</i></p> <p>Excerpts from <i>Ten Lost Years</i></p> <p>and retelling video (Link on D2L)</p>	<p>Retelling Reflection (10%)</p> <p>Sept 27</p>
5 Oct 1 and 3	<p>Time, pacing, and flow</p> <p>Word, sentence, paragraph, page</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p><i>Meander, Spiral, Explode</i> excerpts (introduction, time)</p>	

WEEK OR DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Reading (On D2L unless otherwise specified)	ASSIGNMENTS <i>(Due Friday by 11:59pm)</i>
		Thursday Five Excerpts from <i>The Odyssey</i>	
6 Oct 8 and 10	Place, setting and description Lyric essay forms I	Tuesday - "Life, Death, and the Border Patrol" "A Brief Guide to Essays" (link on D2L)	
7 Oct 15 and 17	Sharing your mentor texts Narration and voice	Tuesday: Excerpt from Claudia Rankine's <i>Citizen</i> Thursday: Student-chosen readings	
8 Oct 22 and 24	Lyric essay forms II Collaborative writing (postcard form) Braided writing and research	Danielle Geller, "The Origin of My Laugh"	
9 Oct 29 and 31	The unconscious; the underworld; loss; the shadow Editing Circle 1	Tuesday: "The Descent of Ishtar," "A Prayer for Werewolves"	Editing Circle 1 (5%) In class Oct 31 Lyric Essay (20%) Nov 1
10 Nov 5 and 7	Formal experiments (Games, poetry, comics, recipes) Curating your chapbook	Tuesday : "The Winged Victory of Samothrace" (Text and recording on D2L) Instagram comics (Links on D2L) Thursday: <i>Logan: An Autobiographical Tabletop Game</i>	Chapbook proposal Nov 8

WEEK OR DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Reading (On D2L unless otherwise specified)	ASSIGNMENTS <i>(Due Friday by 11:59pm)</i>
11 Nov 12 and 14	Individual meetings about chapbook (sign up) (in classroom)	N/A	Course Journal (10%) Nov 15
12 Nov 19 and 21	Home, return, renewal Planning the showcase	Excerpts from <i>The Odyssey</i> , <i>Gilgamesh</i> , "Home" by Warsan Shire	
13 Nov 26 and 28	Endings and revisions Editing Circle 2	TBA	Editing Circle 2 (5%) Chapbook (25%)
14 Dec 3 and 5	Writers' showcase Closing circle	Your work!	Showcase presentation (5%)

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](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
A Story About a Journey (Friday, September 13)	10%
Story Exchange and Reflection (Friday, September 27)	10%
Lyric Essay (Braided, postcard, etc.) (Friday, November 1)	20%
Course Journal (Written weeks 2 – 10, due Friday, November 15)	10%
Editing Circle Feedback 1 & 2 (5% each) In-class Week 9 and 13	10%
Chapbook (Friday, November 29)	25%
Final Showcase (Week 14, both days)	5%
Participation, exercises (ongoing)	10%
	100%

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 camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre

Support Service	Website
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

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 Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to

contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:

<https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

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 (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

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 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 Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

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.

