

	<p>School of Arts & Science ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ENGL 252 Creative Writing: Non-Fiction 2 (Directed Reading) Spring 2011</p>
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COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/engl.html>

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Christine Kirchner	
(b)	Office Hours:	TBA	
(c)	Office Location:	Paul 226	
(d)	Phone:	(250) 370-3329	
(e)	Email:	kirchner@camosun.bc.ca	

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

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

1. Produce creative non-fiction for a general audience, varying the writing style and content for different purposes.
2. Analyse, at an advanced level, what it means to write in a specific genre of creative non-fiction.
3. Practice the writing process appropriate to a specific genre of creative nonfiction.
4. Produce articles, essays, features and/or stories that go beyond facts and explore the topic in a personal and creative way.
5. Identify potential topics and generate ideas appropriate to a specific genre of creative non-fiction.
6. Write the truth in a style that is as accurate and informative as reportage, yet also as personal, provocative, and dramatic as fiction.
7. Evaluate the role of the audience in the development of style and content.
8. Use effective research techniques, including interviewing and using the Internet, as well as other electronic/print sources.
9. Demonstrate the practical skills and professional etiquette of non-fiction freelance writing, including researching sources, fact checking, query letters, and the importance of meeting deadlines.
10. Prepare a manuscript for publication consideration, including writing a cover letter for submission and identifying potential publishers, or other avenues for publication.

3. Required Materials

L. Peat O'Neil (2006) *Travel Writing: See the World, Sell the Story* (2nd edition).
 English 252 Course Package.

Recommended

An 8 ½ X 11 Hilroy notebook, 80 pages, three-hole punched. It will clip easily into your binder along with your course package, and will serve as your writing journal.

A 3-ring binder.

Muriel Harris (2008) 7th Edition, *Pearson Hall Reference Guide* or any good reference grammar and style manual.

Any good collegiate dictionary.

4. Course Content

By blending a journalist's eye, an adventurous spirit, and a storyteller's flair, the craft of travel writing allows you to explore the world on sheets of paper. Travel writing is writing about place, but it is writing about place by a visitor—someone with peeled eyes and a stranger's point of view. This course will ground you in all the basics of travel writing. During the course, you will write several travel pieces, refine your journal writing skills for

the purpose of travel writing, and write a query letter. The course structure involves a combination of lecture, writing exercises, writing workshops, and feedback.

5. Evaluation will be based on the following:

1. Final Drafts: You write FOUR out of the following eleven types of travel articles:

- * Article #1 “Destination” is due TBA
- * Article #2 “Special Interest” is due TBA
- * Article #3 “Journey” is due TBA
- * Article #4 “The Roundup” is due TBA
- * Article #5 “Historical or Holiday Peg” is due TBA
- * Article #6 “Side Trip” is due TBA
- * Article #7 “Outdoors or Recreation” is due TBA
- * Article #8 “News Peg” is due TBA
- * Article #9 “Humour” is due TBA
- * Article #10 “Travel Advice or Service Article” is due TBA
- * Article #11 “Food and Travel” is due TBA

2. Final Draft of Article #12: Personal Experience Essay (due TBA)	=	5%
3. Journal: in-class and assigned exercises (due TBA)	=	10%
4. Query Letter (due TBA)	=	5%
5. Final Portfolio of FIVE Articles, including the Personal Experience (due TBA)	=	50%
6. Participation (class, writing workshops, attendance, etc.--ongoing)	=	10%
		100%

Brief Description of Assignments: Complete instructions will be given out over the term. Detailed instructions will accompany each assignment. Your work will be graded on how well you have met the specific requirements of each assignment. Basic skills of grammar, spelling, and punctuation must be in place.

1. Four Final Draft Articles: Value 5% each (Total = 20%) Due: Varies—please refer to the class schedule.

As we discuss the styles and forms of travel writing, everyone will be asked to experiment with short writing assignments drawn from a list of eleven types of travel articles. Eventually you will present four of these in your final portfolio. The draft travel articles are your opportunity to get criticism and advice before handing in a finished product. It is expected that these will be completed articles, and will be graded as such, but they are to be considered part of a “work in progress.” Corrected drafts can be submitted in your portfolio.

2. Final Draft Article: The Personal Experience Essay--Value 5%. Due: TBA.

Classic travel writing that endures as literature often is in the form of the personal essay. By far the most difficult genre to compose, this type of travel writing demands supple facility with the flow of words and an ability to use comparisons, allusions, metaphors, and irony with skill. The writer draws on all experience rather than impressions rooted solely in a particular location. You will get criticism and advice from both the instructor and your peers (peer editing) before handing in this article as a finished product as part of your final portfolio.

3. Journal: in-class and assigned exercises—Value 10%. Due: TBA.

This will reflect your “homework” and will also be a measure of class participation in the form in-class writing exercises.

4. Query Letter—Value 5%. Due TBA.

You will write one query letter--a letter or email proposing a travel writing article idea to an editor.

5. Final Portfolio of FIVE Articles, including the Personal Experience Essay—Value 10% each (Total = 50%). Due: TBA.

It is my intention that you will leave the class with a collection of polished, finished travel articles in a variety of genres. You will write five, your choice out of the forms we will be discussing: Destination, Special Interest, Journey, The Roundup, Historical or Holiday Peg, Side Trip, Outdoors or Recreation, News Peg, Humour, Travel Advice or Service Article, Food and Travel, and the Personal Essay. One of the five must be the Personal Essay. You will have had feedback on all of these before your final submission, either from me, or from your peers in our in-class peer editing workshops.

- **Peer Editing:** Peer editing sessions are compulsory; students will bring four copies of a more-or-less finished travel article for peer review and comments. You must attend these workshops even if you are not presenting an article that day.
- **Editing Summaries:** A summary of the editing process (instructor and peer editing) will be handed in with every finished travel article in the portfolio (five summaries). All peer editing tallies must be submitted as well (three tallies per article). Work handed in without an editing report will be penalized.

6. Participation—Value 10%: Ongoing. Active participation in workshops, discussions, and in-class writing sessions is a requirement of this course. Not all daily work will be graded, but, on the assumption that all writing needs an audience, students are expected to share their writing with others in small groups or with the class. The instructor reserves the right to refuse work from students who fail to appear in class on a regular basis.

6. Grading System Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for

information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

Students' Responsibilities:

Everyone learns differently. It is up to you to take an active part in the classes and to make sure you are getting the encouragement, criticism, evaluation, and information that you need. Please do not hesitate to email or phone me if you have any questions.

1. Please keep copies of *drafts* as well as final articles. I will ask to see the *process* of the work, not just the final product. Portfolios include earlier drafts and critiques from your instructor and peers.
2. You should ALWAYS keep a copy of EVERYTHING you hand in for evaluation. Accidents sometimes happen and work may be misplaced.
3. **You must complete all assignments to receive a grade in this course.** Hand work in on time (at the beginning of class on the due date). Late submissions must be negotiated and will be penalized 5% per day, counting weekends, up to a maximum of five (5) weekdays, after which they will not be accepted.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of MLA documentation. Plagiarism is a violation of academic ethics which results in serious penalties; therefore, it is vital to give credit where credit is due. Use research/reference materials to support your ideas, not replace them, and make sure your documentation is accurate. For College policies regarding plagiarism, see Student Conduct Policy, "Academic Misconduct," in the Camosun Student Calendar.
5. Your attendance and participation are required. If you miss too many classes, you will be asked to withdraw from the course. Assignments will not be accepted from students who miss more than 25% of classes (7 classes).

Instructor's Responsibilities:

The instructor will adapt the course appropriately, function as a senior learner, share her own ideas and writing, stimulate and support the learning of others, give every opportunity for success, provide clear instructions and examples for assignments, comment helpfully, return work promptly, and treat students with respect, fairness, and honesty.

Format Requirements for Assignments:

1. All homework must be typed.
2. In the left-hand corner, please include your name, my name (Christine Kirchner), English 252, and the date. In addition, each finished article should have a thoughtful title. (No separate title pages, please.) Centre the title.
3. All assignments should be written in 12 pt. Font and Times New Roman style. Be sure your printer produces type at least as dark as the type on this page. Please double space your work and number your pages.