



**School of Arts & Science
Department of English**

**CRWR 153
Writing a Novel 1**

Fall, 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Calendar Description: This course will provide students with practical experience in writing a novel. Students will learn how to write for quantity, write to a deadline, meet daily word-count goals, and sketch an entire story arc. At the end of the course, students will have a 50,000 word first-draft of a novel.

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for your records.

Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor: Laurie Elmquist
- (b) Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m.(or by appointment)
- (c) Location: Paul 332
- (d) Phone: 250-370-3355
- (e) E-mail: elmquist@camosun.ca
- (f) Website: <http://www.sloopenagency.com/sa/laurieelmquist>

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. The Writing Process

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to

- write on deadline;
- meet daily word-count goals;
- and write uncritically for quantity.

2. The Manuscript

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to

- develop scenes;
- create complex characters;
- write storylines;
- and create plots and subplots.

3. The Big-Picture Rewrite

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to

- write a chapter by chapter analysis to clarify the novel's current structure;

- clarify how the interrelated plots and subplots play out against the chapters;
- break down each chapter into its component scenes; cut filler scenes;
- transform passages of summary into scene;
- change the order of scenes;
- take inventory of the characters and their actions;
- cut extraneous characters;
- work with existing characters to bind them more tightly to the core of the story;
- develop characters more fully;
- and improve character storylines.

Required Materials

Baty, Chris. *No Plot? No Problem!: A Low-Stress, High Velocity Guide to Writing a Novel in 30 Days*. Chronicle Books, 2004. ISBN- 0-8118-4505-2

Stein, Sol. *How to Grow a Novel*. St. Martin's Press, 1999. 0-312-26749-5

Course Hours/Location

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30 – 3:50 p.m. Location: Tuesday: Young 220 and Thursday Ewing 100.

We will be discussing texts and writing in every class, sometimes working on assignments that will be handed in for assessment. It is therefore essential to your grade that you attend and participate in all classes.

Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Late assignments may lose marks at the rate of 5% per day. If there are known circumstances that will hinder you from completing an assignment on time, please speak with me well beforehand.

Students who fail to complete any assignments listed below by the final class date or fail to achieve at least D on the final portfolio, will fail the course. It is up to you to make sure that all of your assignments are handed in.

All work for the **final portfolio** must undergo critique and be revised before it is submitted for grading.

Assignments are to be **typed and double-spaced**. Please follow formatting guidelines as specified under Content.

There will be written guidelines for each major assignment.

Please see Class Schedule for due dates of the assignments.

I suggest that you keep all of your essays and other writing assignments, along with drafts. I may ask to see previous work.

Assignments include:

- Short writing assignments (10%)
- The First Draft (40%)
- Final Portfolio (40%)
- Editing (10%)

NB: The course is not over until the end of the exam period

Grading System

I look for originality of ideas, clarity of structure, effectiveness of details, clear point of view, compelling characters and a plot that makes me turn the page. Accurate grammar and spelling are, of course, essential to good writing. I also look for your particular developing voice or style.

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
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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.

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 on the College web site in the Policy Section.