



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of English

CRWR-155-001
Intro to Personal Narrative
Winter 2019

COURSE OUTLINE

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

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

1. Instructor Information

(a) Instructor	Christine Kirchner		
(b) Office hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm, or by appointment		
(c) Location	Paul 226		
(d) Phone	250-370-3329	Alternative:	
(e) E-mail	kirchner@camosun.bc.ca		
(f) Website			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student 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

3. Required Materials

- (a) **Texts:** Burroway, Janet. *Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft*. 4th ed. Pearson. 2015.
- (b) **Other:** CRWR 155 (001) Winter 2019 Course Package.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Course 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.

Class Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 2:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. in Fisher 214.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Tues., Jan. 8 Course Introduction.
Fact and Truth

- *NEXUS* Article: Review of Visiting Author or Event: the “lab” part of the course.
READ: p.137 in the course pack (CP).
- Your Journal.
- Oral Storytelling.
READ: p.128 (CP).
- “Two Truths and a Lie” icebreaker game.

Thurs., Jan. 10 **READ:** Chapter 1, “Invitation to the Writer” pp. 1-14 *Imaginative Writing: The Elements of the Craft* by Janet Burroway (Burroway).

Oral Storytelling, cont’d.

READ: Joseph Boyden, “Walk to Morning” pp. 81-84 (CP).

- ❖ Journal exercise: “Try this 1.2” p. 8 (Burroway).

Tues., Jan. 15 **Oral story is due for small group storytelling (5%).**

Thurs., Jan. 17 The Short Story

READ: “Crucial Elements of the Short Story” pp. 11-12 (CP).

“The Short Story: Critical Questions” pp. 13-14 (CP).

“Plot” p. 15 (CP).

“Point of View” pp. 17-18 (CP).

READ: Lee Maracle “You Become the Trickster” pp. 19-20 (CP).

Lee Maracle “Charlie” pp. 21-25 (CP).

READ: Chapter 2, “Image” pp. 15-28 (Burroway).

Lee Gutkind, “Days and Nights Heading South” pp. 27-28 (CP).

Annie Dillard, “*from* Heaven and Earth in Jest” pp. 28-29 (Burroway).

- ❖ Journal exercise: “Concrete and Abstract.”

Tues., Jan. 22 **Written story is due (10%) at the beginning of the class.**

The Personal Narrative as Memoir

READ: “Essay Assignment: Memoir Essay” pp. 129-130 (CP).

READ: Chapter 8, “Creative Nonfiction” pp. 225-228 (Burroway).

- ❖ Journal exercise: “Warm –up” p. 225 (Burroway).

READ: Chapter 8, “Creative Nonfiction” pp. 229-237 (Burroway).

Gayle Pemberton, “Do He Have Your Number, Mr. Jeffrey?”

pp. 237-245 (Burroway).

- ❖ Journal exercise: “Try this 8.10” p. 245 (Burroway).

Thurs., Jan. 24 Memoir, cont’d.

READ: Kurt Vonnegut, “How to Write with Style” pp. 3-5 (CP).

Chapter 3, "Voice" pp. 47-61 (Burroway).
Stephen King, "On Writing" pp. 38-40 (CP)

❖ Journal exercise: "Characterization Through Action."

Tues., Jan. 29 Memoir, cont'd.

READ: Susan Musgrave. "I Told You When I Came I Was a Stranger" pp. 103-109 (CP).
Sonja Livingston, "Thumb-Sucking Girl" p. 94 (CP).

❖ Journal exercise: "Warm-up" p. 47 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 3.7" p. 60 (Burroway).

READ: Chapter 7, "The Workshop" pp. 208-211 (Burroway).
"Guidelines for Peer Editing" p. 6 (CP).
"Workshopping" p. 7 (CP).
"Peer Review" p. 9 (CP).

Thurs., Jan. 31 **Memoir Workshop**

Tues., Feb. 5 **Memoir Essay is due (15%) at the beginning of the class.**

The Personal Essay

READ: "The Personal Narrative Assignment" pp. 131-132 (CP).

READ: Chapter 4, "Character" pp. 94-99 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Warm-up" p. 94 (Burroway).

READ: Michael Chabon, "Ragnarok Boy" pp. 251-255 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 8.13" p. 255 (Burroway).

READ: Joan Didion, "In Bed" pp. 95-98 (CP).

Thurs., Feb. 7 The Personal Essay, cont'd.

READ: Bernie Kowalewski, "My Polish Grandmother" pp. 49-52 (CP).
Norman Doidge, "The Suit" pp. 53-58 (CP).
Chapter 4, "Character as Voice" pp. 99-102 (Burroway).
Steven Schoen. "Dialogue" pp. 45-47 (CP).
Lee Gutkind. "Dialogue: Characters Who Communicate" pp. 43-44 (CP).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 4.2" p. 99 (Burroway).

Tues., Feb. 12 The Personal Essay, cont'd.

READ: Chapter 4, "Character as Action" pp. 102-104 (Burroway).
Michele Lemon, "Understanding Does Not Always Lead to Tolerance"
pp. 63-65 (CP).
Naheed Mustafa, "The Hijab: My Body Is My Own Business" pp. 66-68 (CP).

Thurs., Feb. 14 The Personal Essay, cont'd.

READ: Drew Hayden Taylor. "Pretty Like a White Boy: The Adventures of a Blue Eyed Ojibway"
pp. 87-93 (CP).

Film: Drew Hayden Taylor. *Redskins, Tricksters, and Puppy Stew.*

Tues., Feb. 19 *READING BREAK. COLLEGE CLOSED.*

Thurs., Feb. 21 *READING BREAK. COLLEGE CLOSED.*

Tues., Feb. 26 The Personal Narrative and Literary Journalism

READ: Margaret Atwood, "The Female Body" pp. 245-247 (Burroway).
Elizabeth Boltson Gordon. "Guilt by Provocation" pp. 29-30 (CP).

Chapter 4, "Character as Thought" pp. 104-105 (Burroway).
Bret Lott, "Genesis" pp. 59-62 (CP).
Susan Musgrave. "Children Decide They Don't Want to Live" p. 26 (CP).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 4.6" p. 105 (Burroway).

Thurs., Feb. 28 The Personal Narrative as a Monologue

READ: Jane Armstrong, "Injection" pp. 41-42 (CP).
Judith Barrington, "Poetry and Prejudice" p. 48 (CP).
Warren J. Bowe, "Guns for Teachers" p. 68 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 3.10" p. 68 (Burroway).

READ: Chapter 4, "Character" cont'd. pp. 106-109 (Burroway).

Tues., Mar. 5 The Personal Narrative as Drama

READ: Chapter 11, "Drama" pp. 328-339 (Burroway).
Chuck O' Connor, "High Hard Ones" pp. 89-93 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 3.15" p. 93 (Burroway).

Thurs., Mar. 7 The Personal Narrative as Drama, cont'd.

READ: Chapter 11, "Drama" pp. 339-341 (Burroway).
Jane Martin, "French Fries" pp. 44-45 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 2.11" p. 45 (Burroway).

Tues., Mar. 12 **Personal Narrative (Essay, Drama, Journalism, or Monologue) Workshop**

Thurs., Mar. 14 **The Personal Narrative is due (15%) at the beginning of the class.**

Travel Writing: The Personal Experience Essay

READ: "The Personal Experience Essay: Nature and Travel Writing" pp. 133-134 (CP).

READ: Chapter 5, "Setting" pp. 135-141 (Burroway).
Carol Shields, "Encounter" pp. 31-33 (CP).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 5.3" p. 141 (Burroway).

Tues., Mar. 19 Travel Writing: The Personal Experience Essay, cont'd.

READ: Chapter 5, "Setting" pp. 141-148 (Burroway).
Joan Didion, "At the Dam" pp. 148-150 (Burroway).
Lorna Crozier, "Chilean Winter" pp. 110-114 (CP).

❖ Journal exercise: "Creative Travel Writing Exercise."

Thurs., Mar. 21 Travel Writing: The Personal Experience Essay, cont'd.

READ: Tomson Highway. "Canada, My Canada" pp. 85-86 (CP).
Nadine Crookes, "Being Nuu-Chah-Nulth" pp. 77-80 (CP).
Janet Greidanus, "The Heroine's Journey" pp. 99-102 (CP).

Nature Writing: The Personal Experience Essay

READ: Ray MacLeod, "Sometimes, It Doesn't Work" pp. 69-76 (CP).

Tues., Mar. 26 **The Personal Experience Essay (Travel or Nature Writing) Workshop**

Thurs., Mar. 28 **The Personal Experience Essay (Travel or Nature Writing) is due (15%) at the beginning of the class.**

The Personal Narrative as a Story or Poem

READ: "The Personal Narrative as a Story or Poem" Assignment pp. 135-136 (CP).

The Personal Narrative as a Story

READ: Chapter 6, "Story" pp. 166-175 (Burroway).

"Plot" p. 15 (CP).

Patricia Hampl, "Red Sky in the Morning" pp. 176-179 (Burroway).

Aleksandar Hemon, "The Book of My Life" pp. 109-111 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 6.4" p. 175 (Burroway).

Tues., Apr. 2 The Personal Narrative as a Story, cont'd.

READ: David Foster Wallace, "Incarnations of Burned Children" pp. 179-181 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 6.6" p. 181 (Burroway).

Thurs., Apr. 4 The Personal Narrative as a Poem

READ: Chapter 10, "Poetry" pp. 297-302 (Burroway).

Dylan Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" p. 117 (CP).

Elizabeth Jennings, "One Flesh" p. 129 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 10.1" p. 299 (Burroway).

Tues., Apr. 9 The Personal Narrative as a Poem, cont'd.

READ: Chapter 10, "Poetry" pp. 302-317 (Burroway).

Nick Laird, "Epithalamium" pp. 325-326 (Burroway).

❖ Journal exercise: "Try this 10.14" p. 317 (Burroway).

READ: Sylvia Plath, "Daddy" pp. 119-120 (CP).

Sylvia Plath, "Lady Lazarus" pp. 121-122 (CP).

Ann Beattie, "Snow" pp. 115-116 (CP).

Shaped or Pattern Poetry

READ: George Herbert, "Easter-Wings" p. 123 (CP).

Lillian Morrison, "The Sidewalk Racer" p. 124 (CP).

Thurs., Apr. 11 The Personal Narrative as a Story or Poem Workshop

NEXUS Author Reading Assignments are due (15%) at the beginning of the class.

Journal (part of Participation Grade—10%) is due at the beginning of the class.

READ: Chapter 7, "Development and Revision" pp. 195-208 (Burroway).

Last class of the course.

* **Thurs., Apr. 18** The Personal Narrative as a Story or Poem is due (15%) in my office, Paul 226, by 3:00 p.m.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Evaluation will be based on the following:

1.	Oral Story and Responses (due on <u>Tues., Jan. 15</u>)	5%
2.	Written Story (due on <u>Tues., Jan. 22</u>)	10%
3.	Memoir Essay (due on <u>Tues., Feb. 5</u>)	15%
4.	The Personal Narrative (due on <u>Thurs., Mar. 14</u>)	15%
5.	The Personal Experience Essay, Travel and Nature Writing (due on <u>Thurs., Mar. 28</u>)	15%
6.	NEXUS Author Reading Assignments (final due date: <u>Thurs., Apr. 11</u>)	3x5% = 15%
7.	Participation: Journal of at least <u>ten</u> in-class writing exercises (due on <u>Thurs., Apr. 11</u>), attendance, preparation, contribution to class discussions, & participation in writing groups, etc.	10%
8.	The Personal Narrative as a Story or Poem (due on <u>Thurs., Apr. 18</u>)	15%
		100%

Notes:

- i. All assignments must be handed in at the scheduled time – at the beginning of class, on the date they are due. Any exceptions must be requested in advance and will be granted only in special circumstances. Late papers will be docked a grade (5%) per day, including weekends.

- ii. 80% attendance is required to perform adequately in the course. You cannot learn from the course and participate in class activities if you do not attend. Repeated absences will result in my request that you drop the course. Assignments will not be accepted from students who miss more than 25% of classes.

- iii. **No cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices are permitted during class without permission.** If you cannot comply with this regulation, you will be asked to leave the class. Accessing any electronic device during an exam or in-class assignment constitutes a violation of the student conduct policy and will result in a grade of zero on the assignment.

- iv. The penalty for plagiarism, both intentional and unintentional, is a grade of zero on the assignment. Plagiarism includes the following: submitting part or all of an assignment written by someone else; copying and pasting one or more passages (even a few words) from another source without correct documentation; and paraphrasing that too closely resembles the original in either form or content.

6. Grading System

- Standard Grading System (GPA)
- Competency Based Grading System

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

n/a

8. College Supports, Services and Policies



Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

1. 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		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

B. 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 at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> 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 are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
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.