

# COURSE SYLLABUS



**COURSE TITLE:** CRWR-155: Introduction to Personal Narrative

**CLASS SECTION:**001

**TERM:** F2021

**COURSE CREDITS:** 3

**DELIVERY METHOD(S):** In person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən 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.bc.ca](mailto:gunnj@camosun.bc.ca)

**OFFICE:** Paul 318

**HOURS:** Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 – 2:30 (In person + Collaborate chat)

*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. 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 Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ territory for 30 years, except for a year in Vancouver on x̱məθḵəy̱əm (Musqueam), S̱ḵw̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and Seḻílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) territory; however, 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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Readings, videos, and podcasts will be available online as links or through D2L and as class handouts, as appropriate.

**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 or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
1	Course introduction, workshop guidelines, and first writing practice Video – Truth and Personal Narrative	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
2	Oral storytelling and oral history <i>Coffee with my Ma</i> , “Ma Steals Baby Larry” (podcast) Barry Broadfoot (ed.), from <i>Ten Lost Years</i> (PDF)	
3	Descriptive writing and sensory writing Excerpt from <i>What it Is</i> by Lynda Barry	A Story about Yourself Due
4	Writing about place Mary Oliver, “Sister Turtle” (PDF) “Descent into Saanich” by Philip Kevin Paul	Thursday is Reconciliation Day
5	Story Exchange Writing about time Heidi Julavits, “October 18” from <i>The Folded Clock</i> Ross Gay, “Loitering is Delightful”	Story Exchange Reflection Due
6	Writing about character David Plante, “Jean Rhys” Maria Campbell, excerpt from <i>Stories of the Road</i> <i>Allowance People</i> Video lesson – Dialogue Video lesson – Scene vs. summary	
7	Essay structures (lyric, braid, hermit crab) Excerpt from <i>Meander, Spiral, Explode</i> Allison K. Williams, “A Brief Guide to Essays” Robin Wall Kimmerer “The Teachings of Grass” (PDF)	
8	Drafting; using research in personal writing Nicole Walker, “The Braided Essay as Social Justice Action”	
9	Constructive feedback; editing circle Experiments in form (audio essays, songs) Jerome Ellis, <i>This American Life</i> segment (podcast) Narrative song prompts	Place Essay Due Editing Circle Worksheet 1 Due
10	Experiments in form (comics, poems) Sarah Leavitt Instagram comics (link) Simon Armitage poems	Thursday is Remembrance Day
11	Writing of witness and celebration Jesmyn Ward, “On Witness and Respair” Marguerite Duras, from <i>The War</i>	Experiment in Form Due
12	Revising and editing Video – Revising and Editing	
13	Editing circle Writing endings	Editing Circle Worksheet 2 Due
14	End of class reading	Writing of Witness and Celebration Due

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](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
A Story about Yourself	10%
Story Exchange and Reflection	10%
Braided Essay – About a Place	20%
Editing Circle Feedback 1 & 2 (5% each)	10%
Experiment in Form	25%
Final Project: Witness and Celebration	25%
	<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](#) 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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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.

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

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### 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](http://camosun.ca/services/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.