

## Critical Writing for Creative Thinkers

ENGL 1B01

Winter 2004 (D3), LST

### OVERVIEW

Critical Writing for Creative Thinkers is a first-year writing studio: hands-on, intensive, practical, skill centred. Each week you will learn about different types of writing and the structure of Written English, as well as taking part in group work and discussions.

The aim of the course is to sensitize you to the connections between you as a writer, your social role, and written texts. Writing critically means being aware as you write of the ways in which your choices are constructing the world and positioning your reader. (Reading critically, then, means being aware of the ways in which the writer is constructing the world and positioning you.)

The writing assignments have been designed to fuse the pragmatic and the personal and be useful to you as a practicing artist, designer, researcher, and critic. They will include objective and subjective description, design scenes and procedures, and art analytical essays.

The week before each written assignment falls due it will be peer reviewed in class. In addition, in preparation for the next class, there will be weekly reading assignments. The final essay will require a significant amount of library research. Expect to be reading and writing at a constant pace.

### EVALUATION

### DUE

Mid-term quiz (basic grammar)	10%	Week of Feb. 23rd
End-of-term quiz (basic grammar)	10 %	Week of April 12th
Five short essays of 300-800 words each:	65 %	
Personal essay (indefinite length) 10%		Week of Jan. 12th
Description (300 wds) 10%		Week of Jan. 26th
Design scene / procedure (400 wds) 10%		Week of Feb. 9th
Analytical essay (500 wds) 15%		Week of March 8th
Research essay/ bibliog. (800 wd essay) 20%		Week of April 5th
Class participation throughout term	15%	
In-class participation 6%		
Preparedness (homework and grammar practice) 9%		

Since there is quite a lot of record-keeping involved in the participation and grammar practice portion of the marking scheme, your instructor may use a spot-checking method, i.e., ask all students randomly and without warning to hand in their homework, or rotate marking in groups around the class, assigning the entire mark for one piece of homework or peer edit. These and other strategies are at the instructor's discretion.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

1. **Course package** available from Copywell Printing, 185 College Street (south side of College just west of McCaul).
2. Jack Finnbogason and Al Valleau **A Canadian Writers Guide**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Nelson Thomson Learning, 2002.  
This book is available at the University of Toronto Bookstore and at the Toronto Women's Bookstore (directions below). If U of T bookstore is sold out, please go to the Toronto Women's bookstore, and vice versa.
  - University of Toronto Bookstore: northwest corner of Beverly and College
  - Toronto Women's Bookstore: south side of Harbord just west of Spadina

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS

1. Joseph Gibaldi. **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers**. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Modern Language Assoc., 2003.
2. A good **desk dictionary**, e.g., *Funk and Wagnall's Standard College Dictionary, Canadian Edition*; *Merriam-Webster Tenth Collegiate Dictionary*; *Random House College Dictionary*; *Collins Dictionary*. There are suggestions only. The U of T Textbook Store can find you a good paperback.

## COURSE POLICIES

Type or word process all drafts and final assignments. Double space, and do not justify right margins. Leave wide margins (more than one inch) to allow for others' comments.

Your instructor is available to meet with you outside of class during specific hours, subject to certain time limits. Please make an appointment with him or her if you need to discuss your work or feel you need extra help. The Writing and Learning Centre is also available for tutoring (see below).

Late assignments are penalized at the rate of 2% per day, including weekends. The office of the Faculty of Liberal Studies will date-stamp and accept late papers; therefore, if you cannot hand in your paper in class on the day it is due, you must bring it to the Liberal Studies office. No extensions will be granted except under very exceptional circumstances (these do not include computer glitches, job commitments, or deadlines that have piled up).

Please make an effort to attend every class. Attendance is compulsory for all courses at OCAD. Students who miss three classes will be asked to drop the course. Missing one hour or more of any class will be counted as an absence.

Plagiarism is

using another person's words, ideas, images, or data (such as statistical tables) without giving proper credit... It is also plagiarism to submit an assignment prepared in whole or in part by another person, including commercial sources... [or to] submit an assignment for credit in more than one course without signed

permission from the instructors of both courses. (*Ontario College of Art and Design Faculty Guidelines 2002-2004*, 40).

Penalties for academic misconduct – plagiarism, cheating on a test or exam, stealing or buying a test or exam, or helping someone else to commit such acts -- can range from failure in the assignment to expulsion from the College.

### WRITING AND LEARNING CENTRE

Room 1302, 113 McCaul Street  
(416) 977-6000 X 229  
[wlc@ocad.on.ca](mailto:wlc@ocad.on.ca)

The Writing and Learning Centre is a resource on OCAD campus for developing your writing, reading, critical thinking, and learning skills. For free one-on-one tutoring and peer mentoring, please contact one of the staff/volunteers. The Centre also conducts workshops on research, writing, editing, and other topics.

### CONTACTS

It is very useful to have the names and phone numbers of contacts in the course to ask questions, give and get support, and share notes. Here is space to write down the phone numbers of two co-participants in the course:

Name Phone:

Name Phone:

### TOPIC FOR PERSONAL ESSAY

In a short essay, explain a specific situation in which some writing of your own especially mattered. Both describe the situation and make clear why your writing was important.

Of course your writing on this occasion will not be the best you could do with more time and more comfortable circumstances. Aim to make this a good first draft. Suggestions (but ignore any of these that contradicts a useful habit of your own):

- take just a few minutes at the beginning to try and make preparatory jottings
- write on every other line, leaving room for second thoughts
- take time at the end to re-read what you have written and to make particular corrections and improvements (Your instructor will let you know when about five minutes remain)