

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS
Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

**CREW 255 CHILDREN'S WRITING WORKSHOP
SECOND TRIMESTER 2008**

Staff

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Class Times

Workshops take place 4.10 – 7.00pm on Mondays in the seminar room of the International Institute of Modern Letters, Glenn Schaeffer House, 16 Wai-te-ata Road.

Aims and Content

CREW 255 requires you to write, read and think critically about fictional work for children.

This is achieved by:

- Writing exercises
- Discussion of written work
- Providing classmates with written feedback
- Keeping a reading journal
- Consistent, steady work towards your assessment folio

The aim of the writing exercises is to explore aspects of the craft of writing for children before you begin on your folio work. They allow you to experiment with your writing voice and to extend your imaginative range.

Reading, thinking about, and discussing each other's writing in a workshop setting will help you to develop insight into what's possible, and what works.

By the end of the course you should have furthered your development as a writer for children and increased your awareness and understanding of the genre. You should also have gained some practical knowledge of the marketplace for children's literature.

Course Materials

There is one set text for the course, available from the Student Notes shop in the Student Union Building. Workshop exercises produced by each student will provide further texts from week to week.

Note: This means that photocopying or printing will be an additional expense for you. You will need to bring thirteen copies of each piece of work to workshop meetings.

Mandatory Course requirements

You must attend all workshops, complete all the prescribed exercise work, write responses to the other students' folio workshops and keep a reading journal that you submit on the due date. If you do not meet these requirements your portfolio will not be assessed and you will automatically fail the course.

Assessment

Assessment for CREW 255 is based on the folio of writing that you submit at the end of the course. Two printed copies of your folio must be submitted on Monday 20th October. Your folio will be read by the workshop coordinator and by an external assessor. (Only the workshop coordinator will read your reading journal.) After assessment has been completed your reading journal and one copy of your folio will be returned to you, along with reports from the two examiners.

Please note: CREW 255 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course you will receive a Grade H (Certificate Pass).

The Folio

Your folio should be between 6,000 – 8,000 words, and, unless otherwise negotiated with the course coordinator, must consist of three items, all suitable for children under the age of twelve.

The heart of the folio should be a novel extract. Two other pieces can be chosen from the following:

- Picture Book (younger readers)
- Picture Book (older readers)

- Short fiction for 5 – 8 year olds
- Short fiction 9 – 12 year olds
- Play, suitable for School Journal, 6 – 8 year olds
- Play, suitable for School Journal, 9 – 12 year olds

An early draft of one of the three pieces must also be included in the folio (not part of the word count).

The Reading Journal

In addition to your portfolio of writing you must submit a reading journal of at least 3000 words. This is due on September 1st. It is mandatory to submit your reading journal in order to pass CREW 255 but the journal will not be assessed. The guidelines for the journal will be discussed in class.

Workload

CREW 255 is a 22-point undergraduate course but the workload is difficult to estimate. Full-time undergraduates should be prepared to spend about 15 hours a week on course work (including workshop time), but need to be aware that many students treat CREW 255 as a full-time undertaking. There is a lot of reading that needs to be done at a steady rate right from the first week.

Punctuality

Workshops begin promptly at 4.10 and students are expected to be in the workshop room a couple of minutes before that. Please ensure that you can meet this requirement before you accept your place.

Workshops

The first workshop is on Monday 7th July. In the first six workshops students will present exercise work for group discussion and in the second half of the semester students will present work from their folios-in-progress.

In addition, each student will be expected to make a brief presentation to the class about an influential children's book, and give a written response to their classmates on their folio presentations.

Towards the middle of the course each student will have an individual conference with the workshop coordinator (about 30 mins). Students should aim to have planned the contents of their folio by this stage.

CREW 255 Timetable 2008

7 July	Introductions, exercise, discussion
14 July	Exercise, discussion, book presentation
21 July	Exercise, discussion, book presentation
28 July	Exercise, discussion, book presentation
4 August	Exercise (half class), discussion, visitor, book presentation
11 August	Exercise (half class), discussion, visitor, book presentation

mid-trimester break , no meetings

1 Sept:	Picture book workshop, book presentation. Reading journal due
8 Sept:	Folio workshop – 3 folios
15 Sept:	Folio workshop – 3 folios
22 Sept:	Folio workshop – 3 folios
29 Sept	Folio workshop – 3 folios
6 Oct:	Final workshop – revisiting, revising
20 Oct	Folio hand-in party

To be confirmed - two guest speakers from the world of writing and publishing and a class visit to the National Library's children's book collection.

To bring to the first workshop:

- This information
- The class reader
- 13 copies of the first exercise

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support