



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES SCHOOL

OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

Writing Programme WRIT 203: Writing for Print Media 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 28 October 2014

Study week: 20–24 October 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 24 October to 15 November 2014

WRIT101 has no final examination.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

All students will sign up for and attend weekly 3-hour workshops in one of the following streams*:

CRN 11054	Monday	14:10-17:00	Murphy MY108
CRN 11335	Monday	14:10-17:00	24 Kelburn Parade KP24103
CRN 19730	Thursday	9:00-11:50	Von Zedlitz VZ103
CRN 19731	Thursday	9:00-11:50	Von Zedlitz VZ101

*Workshops may be added, combined or closed on the basis of enrolment.

Names and contact details

WRIT101 Course Coordinator

Dr Keith Comer

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Email: Keith.Comer@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 04 463 5629

Office Hours: 12:30-13:45 Wednesdays and by appointment

Course Administrator

Dayna Taramai

Office: Von Zedlitz 210

Email: Dayna.Taramai@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 463 5255

Office Hours: 9am – 4.15pm, Monday - Friday

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be communicated through email and/or Blackboard:

www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz

Prescription

This course focuses on how to produce the creative genres of print journalism: personal essay, personality profile, review, commentary, and investigative or feature article. Students are introduced to research and interview procedures, composition techniques – including those characteristic of creative nonfiction – and responding to their own and others' texts.

Course content

The course comprises:

- assigned readings for critique and discussion,
- writing exercises and assignments, and
- weekly 3-hour workshops for writing practice, presentation, discussion, and peer review.

The course covers five main topics:

- The context and nature of professional nonfiction writing,
- Auto/biographical writing (e.g., profiles),
- Interactive writing (e.g., opinion and commentaries),
- Investigative writing (e.g., features and researched articles), and
- Editing for publication.

Throughout the course we will be working in nonfiction, particularly 'creative nonfiction', sometimes classified as literary journalism. This is an increasingly popular hybrid form that uses aspects of fictional writing techniques to create nonfiction works. There will also be opportunity to work with a blog form of composition.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. explore a variety of nonfiction writings
2. read about and discuss aspects of writing theory, process, techniques and style
3. analyse the requirements, problems and constraints in writing contexts
4. develop writing assignments to publication standard through multiple drafts, revision and editing
5. review other students' texts.

Teaching format

WRIT 203 has writing workshops. Students are expected to participate in class discussions, practical writing activities, and analyses of texts. Regular and on-going class participation and engagement with fellow students are vital aspects of the workshop approach. Some writing activities may be conducted online via Blackboard or other web-based applications.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Complete all assignment drafts and final assignment versions by their due dates (unless you have formal permission from the course coordinator to submit late).
- Attend at least 10 of the 12 workshops (30 of 36 workshop hours) unless prevented by illness, injury, bereavement, or some other circumstance that the course coordinator agrees is exceptional, see statement immediately following).

Attendance

WRIT203 has limited entry to foster individual learning and collaborative engagement with writing processes, and attendance at all workshops is necessary to benefit from this approach. It is understood that an absence is sometimes unavoidable through illness, injury, or another unforeseen development. Whenever possible, you should alert your tutor prior to the workshop you cannot attend; if that is not possible, do so well in advance of the next workshop to ensure that you can prepare for the subsequent classes. **Students who miss more than six hours of workshop contact time without satisfactory explanation will fail the mandatory course requirements.** This policy might seem harsh, but WRIT 203 is not an information-based course that allows you to catch up through borrowing of notes, access to lecture handouts, reviews of workshop powerpoints, etc. Instead, WRIT 203 revolves around writing activities, collaborative engagement, and group-oriented learning activities that require on-going participation. Hence, your absences affect the learning opportunities of others in the workshop as well yourself.

Workload

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours spread over the trimester, including the mid trimester break. It is difficult to estimate the time you will spend on workshop assignments, since individuals vary markedly in their writing and reading processes and speeds. As a general guide, you should plan to use approximately 14-15 hours per week for writing, revising, reading, researching, interviewing, and/or completing focused exercises. This applies for each of the 12 teaching weeks and during the mid-semester break. Overall, you should schedule your trimester to include:

- 36 hours attending and participating in required classes (12 weeks x 3 hours per week);
- approximately 35 hours in tasks related to course readings and exercises in support of assignments 1, 2, and 3 outside of workshop;
- approximately 30 hours outside of workshop directed primarily towards Assignment 1 (to include further research and interviewing as needed, an initial draft for peer review, and a revised final draft for grading);
- approximately 40 hours outside of workshop directed primarily towards Assignment 2 (to include further research as needed, an initial draft for peer review, and a revised final draft for grading);
- approximately 60 hours outside of workshop directed primarily towards Assignment 3 (to include further research as needed, an initial draft for tutor feedback, a revised draft for peer review, and a revised final draft for grading).

Assessment

Victoria University Grades – revised for 2014

Marks	90+	85-89	80-84	75-79	70-74	65-69	60-64	55-59	50-54	40-49	<40
Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	E

In addition, Grade K is assigned to indicate a Fail due to not satisfying mandatory course requirements (for example, not attending workshops), even though the student's numerical course mark reached the level specified for a pass, usually 50%. Further details regarding WRIT 203 assessment criteria and marking rubrics are available in Blackboard and the course textbook.

WRIT 203 has no examination. Your final assessment will be based on the completion of the following writing assignments. Marking criteria for all assessment items are individually specified and addressed during workshops and available in Blackboard.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)
1	Assignment 1 – Profile An interview-based portrait, preferably linked to the topic selected for Assignment 3, peer reviewed and revised. Length: 800 – 900 words DRAFT for Peer review: Week beginning August 4th (Week 4)* FINAL version: Week beginning August 11th (Week 5)*	25%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2	Assignment 2 – Blog Commentary or reflective piece, which may be linked to the topic selected for Assignment 3, peer reviewed and revised. Length: 1,000 – 1,150 words DRAFT for Peer review: Week beginning August 18th (Week 6)* FINAL version: Week beginning September 8th (Week 7)*	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Assignment 3 – Investigative Article A researched article written for a non-academic audience, developed, tutor and peer reviewed, and revised. Length: 1,500 – 2,000 words DRAFT for tutor review: Week beginning September 22nd (Week 9)* DRAFT for peer review: Week beginning October 13th (Week 12)* FINAL version: Tuesday October 28th (all students)	45%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

*Exact dates of submission for draft and final (graded) versions of assignments will be given to each class by the instructors and depend upon the day/time of each CRN workshop (e.g., assignments for Monday workshops will be due before the start of class on Mondays, and so forth).

All assignments submitted must be both original and written specifically for WRIT 101. Submitting writing from another course is not acceptable and will earn no assignment credit, though you may draw on content from other courses.

Peer review tasks are designed to provide additional, formative feedback on your writing; they are not assessments.

Submission and return of work

All DRAFTS of assignments 1, 2 and 3 for peer review and tutor feedback **must be submitted electronically via Blackboard prior to the start of your workshops on the due dates noted above, with paper copies brought to class that day.**

FINAL versions of all assignments (1, 2, 3 & 4) must be submitted electronically to Turnitin through Blackboard prior to the start of your workshops on the due dates noted, with paper copies brought to class that day. Any assignments submitted to Blackboard after the start of class will be considered late.

Assessments 1 and 2 will generally be returned in class or via Blackboard/email the week following assignment deadlines. If you desire your third assignment returned to you following marking, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope to your tutor in workshop the final teaching week (13-17 October 2014). If you are unable to submit the paper copies in workshop on their due dates, then you should submit those to the drop box next to the Von Zedlitz 210 as soon as possible or make alternative arrangements with your tutor.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Except in the case of medically documented illness or injury, extensions should be requested in

advance of assignment deadlines. Tutors may grant extensions of up to 72 hours; the course coordinator must approve extensions longer than 72 hours.

Penalties

Assignment length: Every assignment provides a range for the word count that is at least 10% of the final required length. Submissions of less the minimum word count for a task will earn no credit (for example, an Assignment 1 submission of 700 words for that 800–900 word task will be marked 'E'). For submissions over the word count, assessment will cease at the upper limit (for example, an Assignment 1 submission of 1,400 words for that 800–900 word task will not be evaluated past the first 900 words). The assignment title and any Bibliography or References section are not included as part of the final word count.

Set texts

WRIT203 Course Readings (available from vicbooks, www.vicbooks.co.nz)

Other reading materials will be distributed in class or made available via Blackboard.

Recommended reading

A number of recommended readings will be determined by students as part of the course activities. As this list is developed, it will be made available in Blackboard.

Gerard, P. *Creative Nonfiction*. Cincinnati: Story Press. (Available from VUW library on closed reserve.)

Cheney, T. *Writing Creative Nonfiction*. Ten Speed Press. (Available at vicbooks or at VUW library on closed reserve.)

Minot, S. *Literary Nonfiction: The Fourth Genre*. Prentice Hall. (Available from vicbooks.)

Perl, S., & Schwartz, M. *Writing True: The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction*. Houghton Mifflin. (Available from VUW library on closed reserve.)

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. Formal student feedback on WRIT 203 will be elicited during trimester 2. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats

- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz