

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 257 CREATIVE NON-FICTION WORKSHOP First Trimester 2009

#### Staff

Coordinator: Harry Ricketts  
Location: 16 Waiteata Road (c/- Room 402) OR Room VZ 906  
Tel: On class days, messages may be left for Harry at the IIML, tel 463 6854  
E-mail: [harry.ricketts@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:harry.ricketts@vuw.ac.nz) .

There will also be visits from writers, editors and other bookworld professionals.

#### Class Times

Workshops take place 9.30am – 12.30noon on Fridays in the International Institute of Modern Letters, 16 Wai-te-ata Road.

Any further information about CREW 257 is made available in class.

#### Aims, Objectives and Content

CREW 257 gives recognition to creative work in creative non-fiction writing, including autobiography, memoir, short life, personal essay, and travel writing. By the end of the workshops each member of the course should have developed:

- their individual achievement and potential as a writer of creative non-fiction
- their understanding of craft elements in creative non-fiction writing
- their skills as a reader (as well as writer) of creative non-fiction

These goals are achieved through

- regular writing exercises (weekly during the first half of the course)
- workshop presentation and discussion of written work
- production of written assessments of others' work
- consistent, steady work towards the workshop's assessment folio

Exercises will explore particular subject and craft aspects of non-fiction writing, but will also try to develop individual voice and range.

In addition, by the end of the course, students should have acquired some understanding of the New Zealand literary marketplace – the nature of local publishing, the various media outlets for writers, literary magazines, agents, and so on.

### **Course Materials**

There is one set text for this course, a Course Reader, which includes a range of examples of creative non-fiction writing from here and overseas. This is available from the Student Notes shop in the Student Union Building. Otherwise our course texts will be produced, week by week, by members of the workshop group.

**Note** This means that photocopying will be an additional expense for you. You will need to bring **thirteen** copies of each piece of work to workshop meetings (this includes a copy for yourself).

### **Assessment**

Assessment in CREW 257 is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course. Two typewritten or printed copies of your folio must be submitted by Friday 19 June. Two examiners (the workshop teacher and one external assessor) will read each folio. After assessment is completed, one copy of your folio will be returned to you, along with the written reports of the two readers.

**Note** CREW 257 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade H (Ungraded Pass).

### **The Folio**

In CREW 257 folios should be 6,000 - 12,000 words and will normally consist of **three** pieces of creative non-fiction plus a short introduction. **One** of your pieces should be in **two** versions: an early draft and the finished text.

### **Mandatory Course Requirements**

In CREW 257, you must attend **all** workshops and complete **all** the prescribed exercise work and commentary writing. If you do not meet these requirements, your folio will not be assessed, and you will automatically fail the course.

### **Workload**

It is hard to assess the workload for this course. CREW 257 is formally a 22 point undergraduate course, but many students tend to treat it as a fulltime undertaking. You should certainly expect to be busy. Fulltime undergraduates should expect to spend an average of 15 hours per week on this course (this figure includes workshop hours).

### **Workshops**

The first workshop is on Friday 6 March 2009.

At workshops you present weekly exercise work for group discussion and (in at least one session) one of the pieces from your folio work-in-progress. You will also be asked to produce written commentaries on work-in-progress presented by other members of the class.

Towards the end of the workshop programme, each student will have an individual conference with the workshop convenor to discuss the contents and format of their final folio.

### **Workshop Timetable**

Our first six meetings will focus on discussion of weekly exercise work. From May 1 we will focus on folio work.

Friday	March 6	Introductory
Friday	March 13	Workshop Exercise 1
Friday	March 20	Workshop Exercise 2
Friday	March 27	Workshop Exercise 3
Friday	April 3	Workshop Exercise 4
		Guest writer: Jane Westaway (12noon-1pm)

### **Good Friday and mid trimester break: no workshops Friday April 10, 17**

Friday	April 24	Workshop Exercise 5 (this date to be discussed)
Friday	May 1	Folio Workshop
Friday	May 8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Folio Workshop
Friday	May 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Folio Workshop
Friday	May 22	4 <sup>th</sup> Folio Workshop
Friday	May 29	5 <sup>th</sup> Folio Workshop
Friday	June 5	6 <sup>th</sup> Folio Workshop
Thursday	June 19	<b>Folios due</b>

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **Communication of additional information**

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students by email to all class members.

## **General University Requirements**

### **General University policies and statutes**

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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.