



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS**

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

CREW 352 CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

(Writing for Young Adults)

First Trimester

4 Mar to 3 July 2013

Staff

Course coordinator	Mal Peet
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There will also be visitors from the world of writing and publishing for children.

Dates

Teaching dates:	4 March to 7 June 2013
Easter break:	28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break:	22 -28 April 2013
Study week:	10 – 14 June 2013
Examination period:	14 June – 3 July 2013

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Class Times

Workshops take place 3-6pm on Mondays in the seminar room of the International Institute of Modern Letters, Glenn Schaeffer House, 16 Wai-te-ata Road.

The first workshop is on Monday 4 March 2013.

Communication of additional information

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

Course Prescription

An advanced creative writing workshop.

Aims and Content/Teaching learning summary

CREW 352 requires you to write, and to read and discuss critically, fiction for teens and young adults. And to enjoy yourself.

This is achieved by:

1. Completing set writing exercises

These will be short (approximately 500 words) pieces in response to ‘triggers’ or challenges. You’ll write one per week, the stimuli being given a week in advance. These exercises should encourage you to explore and play with writing crafts such as use of voice, point of view, dialogue. They should be fun, too.

2. Writing, refining and editing an extended piece of fiction

The presumption is that this will be the first part of a novel plus a short synopsis. It should be no less than 8,000 and no longer than 12,000 words long. By the end of the course this should be sufficiently polished that you’d consider submitting it to an agent or publisher.

3. Discussing your own and your fellow-students’ work

This can be nerve-racking, but you’ll be part of a small and supportive group with a strong mutual interest. You’ll be expected to read each other’s work carefully and critically, to comment constructively, and to respond creatively to suggestions. The focus of these workshop sessions will be to help you achieve object **2**, above.

4. Keeping a reading journal

Good reading is, of course, essential to good writing. Your reading journal should be about 3,000 words long and contain brief critical commentaries. A **recommended reading list** will be sent to successful applicants.

Learning Objectives

Students who pass this course should:

- Have increased their awareness and understanding of the genre
- Have developed their ability to think critically and constructively about their own and others’ work-in-progress
- Have gained some practical knowledge of the marketplace for children’s literature
- Have brought one piece of writing to the point that it is ready for submission to a publisher.

Course Materials

These will be, primarily, the students’ own work. Please note that this means that you will be printing or photocopying copies of your work for fellow students and the course coordinator; you’ll need to factor that into your time and budget. Mal Peet may from time to time distribute texts for shared discussion.

Mandatory Course requirements

You must attend all workshops (subject to extenuating circumstances), 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.

Workload

CREW 352 is a 20-point undergraduate course but the workload is difficult to estimate. Full-time undergraduates should be prepared to spend about 200 hours on course work (including workshop time), but need to be aware that many students treat CREW 352 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.

Assessment

Assessment for CREW 352 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 17 June 2013. Your folio will be read by the workshop coordinator and by an external assessor. 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 352 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 8,000 – 12,000 words, and, unless otherwise negotiated with the course coordinator, must consist of the first part of a novel plus a short synopsis.

The should be sufficiently polished that you would consider submitting it to an agent or publisher.

The Reading Journal

In addition to your portfolio of writing you must submit a reading journal of at least 3,000 words which contains brief critical commentaries. This is due on Monday 17 June 2013. It is mandatory to submit your reading journal in order to pass CREW 352 but the journal will not be assessed. The guidelines for the journal will be discussed in class.

Punctuality

Workshops begin promptly at 3.10pm 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 4 March 2013. 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, 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. Students should aim to have planned the contents of their folio by this stage.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

To bring to the first workshop:

- This information
- First written exercise

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>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic.

Workshop Timetable 2013

Monday 4 March Introductions, exercise 1, discussion

Monday 11 March Exercise 2, discussion, presentation

Monday 18 March Exercise 3, discussion, presentation

Easter Break – 1 April - no meeting

Monday 25 March Exercise 4, discussion, presentation

Monday 8 April Exercise 5 (half class), discussion, visitor, presentation

Monday 15 April Exercise 5 (half class), discussion, visitor, presentation

Mid-trimester break - 22 April - no meeting

Monday 29 April: Exercise 6, presentation. Reading journal due

Monday 6 May: Folio workshop – 3 folios

Monday 13 May: Folio workshop – 2 folios

Monday 20 May: Folio workshop – 3 folios

Monday 27 May: Folio workshop – 2 folios

Monday 3 June is Queen's Birthday: negotiate whether the final workshop will be held on this date or another date to be negotiated. Must not be held during study week (week commencing 10 June).

Monday 17 June: Folio hand-in party