



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 2013

Important dates

Trimester dates: 15 July to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Last assessment item due: 25th October 2013

Study period: 21–25 October 2013

Withdrawal dates: Refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class times and locations

CRN11054 Tuesday 9am – 11.50am in MY402

CRN19730 Wednesday 9am – 11.50am in MY402

CRN11335 Wednesday 1.10pm – 4pm in MY402

CRN19731 Friday 9am – 11.50am in MY402

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator:

Derek Wallace

Office: Von Zedlitz 319

Phone: (04) 463 5630

Email: Derek.Wallace@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Friday 1pm – 2pm

Course Administrator:

Dayna Taramai

Office: Von Zedlitz 210

Phone: (04) 463 – 5255

Email: Dayna.taramai@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 4.15pm

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be communicated through e-mail and 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. 100% internal assessment.

Course content

The course comprises:

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

The course covers five main topics:

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

Throughout the course we will be working in non-fiction, particularly “creative non-fiction”, also known as literary journalism. This is an increasingly popular hybrid form that uses fictional writing techniques to create non-fiction works. There will also be opportunity to experiment with a blog form of composition.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing the course should be able to :

1. explore a variety of non-fiction 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.

Mandatory course requirements

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

Complete all assignment and exercise drafts by their due dates (unless you have formal permission from the coordinator to submit late).

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 your assignments, since individuals vary in their writing processes and speeds.

Assessment

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 words Due date: Week beginning August 12 th 2013	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: 1000 words. Due date: Week beginning 19 th August 2013	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: 1500 – 2000 words. Due date: First draft week beginning September 16 th 2013 Final draft Friday October 25 th 2013	45%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Dates of submission of drafts for peer review will be given in the first workshop

Submission of work

All assignments should be submitted in class or in the slot box at Von Zedlitz Building, Level 2, Room 210.

Penalties

Assignments submitted late without permission are penalized by 2% per late day, including weekends. An assignment that is more than two weeks late will be refused a grade

Victoria University Grades

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

Grading

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

There is consistent evidence of the ability to apply learning independently. Submitted writing displays creativity of thinking and clarity of communication to a high degree. A variety of strategies are tried and commented on in feedback to the tutor; evidence is provided of insightful observations and reflections on writing and learning and there is clear evidence of an emerging professionalism in relation to own and others' writing.

Very good (B+, B)

There is some evidence of the ability to learn independently. Submitted writing is convincing in style and presentation, consistently achieving coherence, accuracy and some degree of originality of thought; some attempt to try different strategies and reflect on these.

Good (B-, C+)

Some evidence of competent proficiency. Conscientious completion of tasks; writing is reasonably competent and clear, but subject matter will not be well or fully developed. Independent learning is not markedly obvious. Revision is largely superficial.

Satisfactory (C)

A minimally acceptable level of proficiency. Work may have some errors and structure limitations, but writing is definitely communicative and there is evidence of commitment, understanding of what is required to achieve competency, and ability to improve. All course requirements are met.

Unsatisfactory (D, E)

Unsatisfactory level of proficiency demonstrated, based on the submitted work.

Set texts

WRIT203 Course Readings (available from vicbooks)

Recommended reading

Gerard, P. (1996) *Creative Nonfiction*. Cincinnati: Story Press. (Available from VUW library on closed reserve)

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

Minot, S. *Literary Nonfiction: The Fourth Genre*. Prentice Hall. (Available at Victoria Books at price of \$53. There might be left over copies at much reduced price)

Perl, S. and M. Schwartz (2006) *Writing True: The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction*. Houghton Mifflin. (Library closed reserve)

vicbooks website: www.vicbooks.co.nz

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:

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/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz