



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

### CREATIVE WRITING

### CREW 352: Creative Writing Workshop: Science Writing 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 3 2013

#### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 18 November 2013 – 20 December 2013

**Teaching dates:** 18 November 2013 – 20 December 2013

**Mid-trimester/Xmas break:** 23 December 2013 – 5 January 2014

**Last assessment item due:** 22 December 2013

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

#### Class times and locations

Workshops will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-1pm at the International Institute of Modern Letters, 16 Wai-te-ata Road, in the workshop room (Room 102). The first workshop will be on Tuesday 19 November 2013.

The workshop on Thursday 28 November, taught by Professor Deborah Blum, will run from 10am-4pm. Lunch will be provided.

#### Names and contact details

Course convenor	Ashleigh Young
Co-convenor	Rebecca Priestley
Office	Room 402, 16 Waiteata Road
Phone	463 6854 for messages for Ashleigh or Rebecca.
Email	<a href="mailto:ashleigh.young@vuw.ac.nz">ashleigh.young@vuw.ac.nz</a> ; <a href="mailto:rebecca.priestley@vuw.ac.nz">rebecca.priestley@vuw.ac.nz</a>

#### Communication of additional information

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

#### Prescription

An advanced creative writing workshop focusing on science subjects.

## Course content

CREW 352 gives recognition to creative work in science writing, including essay, travel writing, blog posts and other forms of online writing, magazine and journal articles, biography, and memoir.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- Communicate complex scientific information and ideas in a creative and engaging way
- Demonstrate capability in applying the craft elements of creative nonfiction to writing about science
- Critically read and access a wide range of creative science writing
- Critically read other students' work and provide useful feedback.

These goals are achieved through:

- Regular writing exercises (weekly during the first half of the course)
- Workshop presentations and discussion of written work
- Production of written assessment of others' work
- Consistent, steady work towards the workshop's assessment folio.

Exercises will explore particular subject and craft aspects of science writing, but will also aim to develop individual voice and range.

In addition, by the end of the course, students should have acquired some understanding of the marketplace for science writing – the nature of local publishing, the various media outlets for science writers, the editing process, and so on.

## Teaching format

The content of CREW 352 will be delivered through the twice weekly workshops as well as the writing exercises, written and verbal assessments of others' work, and your own reading and writing.

At workshops you will present weekly exercise work for group discussion, and (in one session) some of the work from your folio work-in-progress. You will also be asked to provide feedback (both verbal and written) on work-in-progress presented by other members of the class.

During the first two weeks of this course, each student will have an individual conference with the course convenor to discuss the contents and format of their final folio.

## Mandatory course requirements

You must attend all workshops (subject to extenuating circumstances) and complete all the prescribed exercise work and commentary writing. If you do not meet these requirements, your folio may not be assessed and you may fail the course.

## Workload

It is hard to assess the workload for this course. CREW 352 is formally a 20-point undergraduate course, but many students treat it as a full-time undertaking. You should certainly expect to be busy. Full-time undergraduates should expect to spend 200 hours across the course. This includes workshops hours of six per week.

Due to the relatively short time-frame of CREW 352, it is essential that students begin planning and writing their folio material in the first 2-3 weeks of the course.

## Assessment

Assessment in CREW 352 is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course. Two printed copies of your folio, and one digital copy, must be submitted by Sunday 22 December 2013. Two examiners (the workshop convenor 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.

The folio: CREW 352 folios should be 6,000-8,000 words and will ordinarily consist of three pieces of science writing plus a short introduction. One of your pieces should be presented in two versions: an early draft and the finished piece.

Note: CREW 352 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade P (Ungraded Pass).

## Set texts and additional expenses

There is one set text for this course, a Course Reader (Student Notes), which includes a range of examples of science writing by various writers. Otherwise, our course texts will be produced, week by week, by members of the workshop group.

The Course Reader will be available for purchase from vicbooks in October/November 2013 ([www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz)).

The course convenor may distribute further texts in class and make reading suggestions based on your individual project. For example, *The Exercise Book* presents favourite writing exercises across a variety of genres, including poetry, prose and scriptwriting. The IIML blog also provides insights and exercises ([modernlettuce.wordpress.com](http://modernlettuce.wordpress.com)). The class exercises for science writing will differ somewhat from those included in *The Exercise Book* and on the blog, but the basic framework of the class exercises, and their purpose of generating new writing, are very similar.

Note: photocopying and printing will be an additional expense for you. **For the first workshop meeting on 19 November, you will need to complete Exercise 1 and bring fourteen copies to the class (this includes a copy for yourself).**

## 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

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

## Workshop Timetable

Our first five meetings will focus on weekly exercise work. From 10 December we will focus on folio work.

At each meeting we will also discuss a piece of pieces from the Course Reader.

Tuesday 19 November:	Introduction
Thursday 21 November:	Exercise 1
Tuesday 26 November:	Exercise 2
Thursday 28 November: 10am-4pm	A session with Professor Deborah Blum
Tuesday 3 December:	Exercise 3
Thursday 5 December:	Exercise 4
Tuesday 10 December:	1 <sup>st</sup> Folio workshop
Thursday 12 December:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Folio workshop
Tuesday 17 December:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Folio workshop
Thursday 19 December:	4 <sup>th</sup> Folio workshop
Sunday 22 December:	Folios due