



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

#### CREATIVE WRITING

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

#### TRIMESTER 2 2015

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 13 July to 15 November 2015

**Teaching dates:** 13 July to 16 October 2015

**Mid-trimester break:** 24 August to 6 September 2015

**Last assessment item due:** 30 October 2015

**Study period:** 19–23 October 2015

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

### Class times and locations

Workshops will take place on Fridays from 3.10–6pm in the workshop room at the IIML (Room 102, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus). The first workshop will be on Friday 17 July 2015.

### Names and contact details

Course convenors	Ashleigh Young Rebecca Priestley
Office	Room 404, 16 Waiteata Road
Phone	463 6854 (for messages)
Email	<a href="mailto:ashleigh.young@vuw.ac.nz">ashleigh.young@vuw.ac.nz</a> or <a href="mailto:rebecca.priestley@vuw.ac.nz">rebecca.priestley@vuw.ac.nz</a>
Administrators	Katie Hardwick-Smith and Clare Moleta
Office	Room 402, 16 Waiteata Road
Phone	463 6854

### 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, or will be communicated on Blackboard.

## **Prescription**

An advanced creative writing workshop focusing on science subjects.

## **Course content**

CREW 352 give recognition to creative work in science writing, including essays, travel writing, biography and memoir, blog posts, and magazine and journal articles.

## **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 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, including the nature of local publishing and the various media outlets for science writers.

## **Teaching format**

The content of CREW 352 will be delivered through the weekly workshops as well as the writing exercises, written and verbal assessments of others' work, and your own reading and writing. Additional discussion is always welcome via Blackboard.

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.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

## Workload

CREW 352 is a 20-point undergraduate course. You should expect to spend approximately 200 hours across the course. This includes three hours of workshops, 6 hours of reading and 6 hours of writing per week.

## Assessment

1. Assessment in CREW 352 is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course, on the class writing exercises, participation in the workshops and feedback on other students' work.
2. Two printed copies of your folio must be submitted by Friday 30 October 2014. 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 written reports by the two readers.
3. The folio: CREW 352 folios should be 6,000–8,000 words. This 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.
4. Note: CREW 352 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade P (Ungraded Pass).

## Submission and return of work

During the course, you will submit printed copies of exercise work and folio work to the class. These will be workshopped by the class the following week.

By 30 October, you must submit two printed copies of your folio to the administration office at the IIML. One copy of your folio will be returned to you, together with your written reports, by 30 November 2015.

If you are unable to submit printed copies of any work, please see the course convenor.

## Additional expenses

Any printing or photocopying of your work will be an additional expense for you.

## Set texts and recommended reading

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 June 2014 ([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.

## 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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/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/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://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](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## **Workshop Timetable**

Our first meeting is an introduction to the course. From 24 July – 21 August we will focus on weekly exercise work. From 11 September – 30 October we will focus on folio work-in-progress.

At each meeting, including the first, we will also discuss a piece or pieces from the Course Reader.

Friday 17 July – introductory meeting

Friday 24 July

Friday 31 July

Friday 7 August

Friday 14 August

Friday 21 August

### **MID TRIMESTER BREAK: Writing time**

Friday 11 September

Friday 18 September

Friday 25 September

Friday 2 October

Friday 9 October

Friday 16 October

**Friday 30 October    Hand in final folio**