



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME CREW 352: Creative Writing Workshop: Science Writing 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Last assessment item due: 25 October 2016

Study period: 17–20 October 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Workshops will take place on Tuesdays from 2.10–5pm in Room 203 at the Stout Research Centre, 12 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus). The first workshop will be on Tuesday 12 July.

Names and contact details

Course convenors	Ashleigh Young Rebecca Priestley
Office	Room 404, 16 Waiteata Road
Phone	463 6854 (for messages)
Email	ashleigh.young@vuw.ac.nz or rebecca.priestley@vuw.ac.nz
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 your folio work-in-progress. You will also be asked to provide feedback (both verbal and written) on folio 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 possible 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 Tuesday 25 October 2016. 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 25 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 2016.

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

Materials and equipment and/or 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 from the IIML late June. You will be advised when it is available. It will also be available online in Blackboard.

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). 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.

Student feedback

To date there have been no suggestions for changes or improvements to this course from Student Feedback. The IIML, however, is open to ideas and suggestions.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at 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
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Workshop Timetable

Our first meeting is an introduction to the course. From 19 July – 16 August we will focus on weekly exercise work. From 6 September – 11 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.

Tuesday 12 July – introductory meeting

Tuesday 19 July

Tuesday 26 July

Tuesday 2 August

Tuesday 9 August

Tuesday 16 August

MID TRIMESTER BREAK: Writing time

Tuesday 6 September

Tuesday 13 September

Tuesday 20 September

Tuesday 27 September

Tuesday 4 October

Tuesday 11 October

Tuesday 25 October Hand in final folio