

**CREW 257 CREATIVE NONFICTION WORKSHOP  
HE KŌRERO PONO (20 points)**

This is a workshop course in writing creative nonfiction (eg memoirs, travel writing) which also involves representative reading in the genre. It involves the writing and study of Creative Nonfiction, sometimes called 'the fourth genre', or the literature of reality. The term refers to any kind of nonfiction writing which uses the techniques of narrative fiction. In practice, this tends to mean the memoir, the personal essay, the biographical sketch, travel writing, and other kinds of prose lifewriting. In this course, students will explore a full range of Creative Nonfiction possibilities - but will also be able to focus on a particular area of interest. Weekly workshops are held for the discussion of both set exercises and student work in progress. The set text is an online selection of characteristic samples and examples and is accessed via NUKU.

The convener of the Creative Nonfiction Workshop is **Harry Ricketts**. Harry is Professor in the School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies. His publications include: *How To Live Elsewhere*, in Four Winds Press essay series; *How to Catch a Cricket Match*, in the Awa Press essay series; *The Unforgiving Minute*, an acclaimed biography of Rudyard Kipling; *Talking about Ourselves*, a book of interviews with New Zealand poets; *People Like Us*, a volume of short stories; eight collections of poems, of which the most recent is *Your Secret Life*; and *How You Doing?*, an anthology of New Zealand comic verse. He is also co-editor of the review journal *New Zealand Books* and the *Listener* theatre critic for Wellington.

**Harry writes:**

"This year I've had portfolios about schooldays, friends, family members, the environment, journeys to South America, to Morocco, to China, love gone right, love gone wrong, how to live with yourself, how not to live with yourself. We all have stories but what might they mean (to us, to others) and how to tell them most effectively? These are some of the questions we keep chipping away at."

For more information about Harry Ricketts try

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_Ricketts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Ricketts)

→ see over

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## **How to Enrol**

Enrolment in CREW 257 is limited to 12 students. The prerequisite is 40 points and an appropriate standard in written composition. Because of demand for places, however, the quality of the work which accompanies applications is critical in deciding admissions.

**Application and enrolment:** must be lodged online by going to university home page and follow the links: [www.wgtn.ac.nz/](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/)

Prospective applicants are recommended to visit the How to Apply page of our website ([www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters)) for more details.

## **Workshops**

Where: at the IIML, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus

When: Trimester 1, Fridays 2-5pm

## **Assessment**

The course is assessed by a folio of writing which is submitted immediately after the final workshop. This will include at least three short pieces (one both in draft and in finished form), with an introductory essay. Folios are examined on a pass/fail basis by the workshop convenor.

## **Reading**

The course readings will be available online via Nuku. The course convenor may also make reading suggestions based on your individual project. There are, in addition, two books which will give you some idea of what to expect from our workshops as well as providing resources for developing your work. *Mutes & Earthquakes* brings together essays and creative work from a wide range of writers who have connections with the IIML. More recently, *The Exercise Book* presents favourite writing exercises across a variety of genres, including poetry, prose and scriptwriting.

Please note that our workshops are not a classroom version of a writing manual: we do not teach a specific set of predetermined skills. Our aim is to develop the imaginative capacity and individual literary skills of emerging writers in a stimulating workshop environment.