



English (ENGL) 381

Creative Writing in Prose (Revision 5)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing ↗ for the current revision ✕
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online ↗
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Humanities
Prerequisites:	ENGL 211 and ENGL 212 , a final grade of “B” in ENGL 353 , and permission of the professor.
Precluded:	None
Challenge:	ENGL 381 is not available for challenge.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences ↗

Overview

The focus of *English 381: Creative Writing in Prose* is your work and its development. Progress depends on engagement, patience, and perseverance, as well as a desire to do things well. *You* bring the desire, talent, and creativity. This course does its best to encourage those values, but its main role is to expand your sense of technical understanding as you shape the material that arises for you within the various assignment prompts and parameters.

To get the most from this course, you need to believe that your writing can be improved by study, dedication, and feedback. It is equally important to remember that writing should be fun and inspiring. Compelling fiction results from both work *and* inspiration; you cannot have one without the other.

Students are expected to have a sound background in literature and proven essay-writing ability. Before contacting the professor with your request for approval to register, please read Readiness for ENGL 381. This document also provides further information about the course.

Readiness for ENGL 381

Outline

- Unit 1: Scene and Narrative Summary
 - Lesson 1: Writing a Scene or Narrative Summary
 - Lesson 2: Scene Dynamics, Narrative Summary, and Prose Forms
 - Lesson 3: Setting, Character, Point of View, and Voice
 - Lesson 4: Representing Thought and Speech
- Unit 2: The Very Short Story
 - Lesson 5: Setting, Character, Point of View, and Voice
 - Lesson 6: Structure and Style
 - Lesson 7: More on Structure and Style
- Unit 3: Added Complexity

- Lesson 8: Aspects of Complexity
- Lesson 9: Plot
- Lesson 10: Objective Correlative
- Unit 4: One More Revision
 - Lesson 11: More Guidelines for Revision

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for ENGL 381, You may fail only one of the creative writing assignments (1, 4, 6, 8, and 9) and still receive a pass for the course. A fail is any mark below 50 percent. You may fail only one response to a peer draft (Assignments 2 and 7) and only one craft study (Assignments 3 and 5) and still receive a pass for the course. A fail is any mark below 50 percent.

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Scene or Narrative Summary Draft	Pass/Fail
Assignment 2: First Peer Response	5%
Assignment 3: First Craft Study	5%
Assignment 4: Revised Scene or Narrative Summary	10%
Assignment 5: Second Craft Study	5%
Assignment 6: Very Short Story	20%
Assignment 7: Second Peer Response	5%
Assignment 8: Complex Story or Narrative Opening	25%

Activity	Weight
Assignment 9: Further Development of a Previous Fiction Submission	25%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

Materials

Mills, Mark. *Crafting the Very Short Story: An Anthology of 100*

Masterpieces. Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2003.  (Print)

Richards, David Adams. *Nights Below Station Street*. Toronto: Newmac

Amusement Inc., 1988.  (Print)

Simpson, Leanne. *Islands of Decolonial Love*. Winnipeg: ARP Books,

2013.  (Print)

Other Materials

All other course materials are available online. They include an extensive study guide and online readings.

Important links

- › **Academic advising** [↗](#)
- › **Program planning** [↗](#)
- › **Request assistance** [↗](#)
- › **Support services** [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 5, October 12, 2021

Updated July 19, 2023

View **previous revision** 
