Health Sciences 3N03 Fall 2018 Course Outline

Written Communications in the Health Sciences

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Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program  
Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning  
Room 3308  
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Email: robert.spree@learnlink.mcmaster.ca  
Office Hours: By appointment.

Class: Thursday 6:00 – 9:00 PM, MDCL 3017

Important Note:

All course materials and sources relevant to the class will be posted on Learnlink.

Course Description:

This course embraces the notion that clear and effective writing is the result of coherent thinking. Students will examine models of writing in a range of genres. Through inquiry and personal reflection in group discussions, students will identify and experiment with techniques to enrich the quality of their written expression and to enhance their effective use of, and understanding of, grey literature.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

• analyse and assess how techniques, diction, voice, and style are used in a range of forms of writing to communicate effectively

• apply writing skills introduced in class

• demonstrate verbal communication skills through regular discussions

• learn and explore various forms of grey literature

• produce writing for a variety of purposes and audiences with an emphasis on well-developed content and the effective use of appropriate forms, techniques, diction, voice, and style

• assess the effectiveness of theirs and others' written work.
Required Texts:

The Sounds of Poetry by Robert Pinsky
They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing (3rd Edition) by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein

Course Components:

Participation

You are expected to attend every class and to be prepared to discuss the assigned weekly readings. Your active participation will be a real indicator of your engagement and will help ensure your success.

Together we will create a community of writers that will encourage self and peer evaluation. Many of the activities you will be asked to perform will deepen your engagement with each other and help refine your own pieces of writing.

You will be expected to participate in individual conferences with the instructors to discuss on-going projects or drafts, seek additional help and receive support to become better writers.

Writer’s Notebook 30%

Evidence of your participation and your growth as a writer will be demonstrated by your frequent use of your writer’s notebook. With the aid of writing prompts and other creative writing activities you are designed to practice—freely—the craft of writing.

For example, after reading and discussing the essays, grey literature, short stories and poetry on the list, it is expected that you write brief personal reflections on each piece of writing in your writer’s notebook. Some of the writing you will do in your notebook will help you create mature, engaging, thought-provoking pieces of work.

Portfolio 30%

You will keep a portfolio of your writing. The portfolio demonstrates your learning and achievement in this course. The portfolio is a sampling of all your work in this course. It provides you with the opportunity to illustrate showcase or reflect what you have accomplished as a reader, writer, thinker, and learner.

Grey Literature 20%

More details to follow in class.
Peer Review/Editing 20%

Peer review/editing is practiced throughout the course. When taken seriously and practiced regularly, peer review/editing develops skills that are essential to successful writing. For writers, peer review/editing provides vital feedback and develops an awareness of writing as a process. For readers, peer review/editing offers training in critical analysis and an opportunity to reflect on their own writing. As well, these workshops expose you to a variety of forms and techniques used by other writers in the class – helping you develop a more concrete sense of audience and clearer understanding of what works. Most importantly, peer review/editing fosters important interpersonal skills: the ability to listen respectfully, voice opinions thoughtfully, and offer positive suggestions.

Course Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writer’s Notebook</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Literature Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review/Editing</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Academic Integrity:

Any work submitted for one course may not be submitted for another course without the permission of the instructors of both courses. The creation of original work is a celebration of your intellectual curiosity.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at:

http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf

The instructor, program and the university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If modifications become necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given. Students will be provided with an explanation and an opportunity to comment. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and the course website/LearnLink weekly during term. Any significant changes will be made in consultation with the BHSc Assistant Dean.

Suggested Readings on Writing:

Inside Memory by Timothy Findley
On Writing by Stephen King
SCHEDULE OF READINGS, LECTURES AND ACTIVITIES

**September 6**  Course Outline Distributed

**September 13**  Introduction to course
       Poetry

Introduction to Poetry – Activity

**September 20**  Poetry

Film – TBA

Poetry Workshop Activities

**Grey Literature**

**September 27**  Poetry

Guest Speaker: TBA

Conferencing with Facilitator

*Peer Editing/Reviewing*

*Writer’s Notebook Due Today*

**October 4**  Short Fiction

Film – TBA

Stylistic Techniques

**October 11**  Mid-term Recess (No class)

**October 18**  Short Fiction

Conferencing with Facilitator

*Peer Editing/Reviewing*

*Grey Literature Proposal Due Today*
October 25  
Essays

Conferencing with Facilitator

Peer Editing/Reviewing

*Short Story Due Today

November 1  
Essays

Essay Workshop Activities

Conferencing with Facilitator

Peer Editing/Reviewing

*Grey Literature Progress Report Due Today

November 8  
Guest Speaker: TBA

Conferencing/Editing

November 15  
Summary and Review/Reflect

*Sharing of Grey Literature Projects

November 22  
*Sharing of Grey Literature Projects

November 29  
“A Celebration of Voices”
Students read aloud poetry and prose from their Portfolio
*Portfolio and Writer’s Notebook Due Today

December 7 – 20  
Interviews/Self-evaluation Component
## HTH SCI 3N03 Fall 2018 Course Workload Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>1. Writer’s Notebook Submitted (Feedback)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>2. Grey Literature Proposal Delivered Electronically*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>3. Short Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>4. Grey Literature Progress Report Delivered Electronically *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>6. Sharing of Grey Literature Projects with the class (Submit hard copy.)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>7. Sharing of Grey Literature / Submit Portfolio and Writer’s Notebook*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>8. A Celebration of Voices –Students read aloud poetry and prose from portfolios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 7 - 20</td>
<td>9. Interviews/Self-evaluation Component</td>
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*These dates are subject to change to accommodate individual student and class progress.

With regard to peer editing/conferencing, students must be purposeful and productive.

## HTH SCI 3N03 Assessment and Evaluation

Students will submit written proposals identifying the percentage weights that they would like to be used to reflect their level of achievement in the course. These evaluations proposals are subject to the approval of the course facilitator.

- Writer’s Notebook: 30%
- Portfolio: 30%
- Grey Literature: 20%
- Peer Editing: 20%

Interview/Self-evaluation

Final Mark: 100