

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Division of Creative Writing
Course Descriptions
SPRING 2018

All courses in the creative writing series emphasize the student's own work and are taught as workshops. The classes have an enrollment limit of 18 to insure the maximum efficiency of the workshop and to permit adequate individual attention. Class attendance and participation will be counted as an extremely important part of the course requirement.

100 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

Acquaints students with the technical choices a writer makes in creating stories, poems, and related written forms like creative nonfiction. Activities include mini-lectures about craft, discussions of related reading assignments, creative writing and analytical exercises, as well as visits by working writers.

104 INTRODUCTORY NARRATIVE WRITING

Practice in the writing of narrative prose, with primary emphasis on short fiction. Prerequisite: Completion of campus Composition I general education requirement.

106 INTRODUCTORY POETRY WRITING

Practice in the writing of poetry; experimentation with a number of fixed forms and free verse, but emphasis mainly on the student's freedom to develop a personal style. Prerequisite: Completion of campus Composition I general education requirement.

200 READING FOR WRITERS

Think of Reading for Writers as the course a group of fiction writers and poets might take when they want to talk and write about the mechanics of stories and poems, the decisions that face writers as they build or shape the things they write, the formal elements that time and again surface as the basic tools at hand. This course seeks also to help writers understand the necessity for a shared reading list that encourages conversations among writers about what we do and how it gets done well. Such a reading list should help writers as they move through one of our Creative Writing sequences, poetry or fiction. This class satisfies a literature requirement in the Creative Writing major.

202 TOPICS IN CREATIVE WRITING, Rubins TR 12:30-1:45

TOPIC: World-Building

This course will be exploring the difficult task of world-building as appears in science fiction, fantasy, and dystopian writing. Students will write and workshop their own fictional works in this course. One guiding idea behind better craft in this aspect of writing is coming to understand and appreciate more fully the complexity of our own world's nature and/or the nature of human societies. Very often writers in these genres are inspired by the diversity and strangeness in the natural world. To aid in this exploration we will be reading examples of genre literature and researching aspects of the natural world and human societies.

204 INTERMEDIATE NARRATIVE WRITING

Practice in the writing of fiction, with emphasis on the short story. Prerequisite: [CW 104](#) or equivalent.

206 INTERMEDIATE POETRY WRITING

Builds upon the workshop format of CW 106 with an emphasis on prosody and poetic technique. Students will deepen their sense of craft by putting into practice their study and understanding of a variety of poetic forms (e.g., syllabic poetry, dramatic monologue, sonnet, bound/free verse) and technical concerns (e.g., voice, tone, line, line break, image). The workshop component of the course typically includes 8-12 completed poems and their revisions.

208 CREATIVE NONFICTION WRITING

Types of nonfiction prose, including the personal essay, memoir, literary journalism, and historical writing. Prerequisite: [RHET 233](#) or [CW 243](#), or equivalent, or consent of instructor.

243 INTERMEDIATE EXPOSITORY WRITING

Practice in expository types, with emphasis on style and critical analysis. Restricted to Creative Writing majors. **Prerequisite:** completion of campus Composition I requirement. **This course fulfills the campus Advanced Composition requirement.**

404 1U/1G ADVANCED NARRATIVE WRITING

Prerequisite is CW 204. This third level workshop continues the writing of fiction at a more advanced level. Students meet regular deadlines and work on projects of their own design.

406 1U/1G ADVANCED POETRY WRITING

Practice of the writing of poetry aided by intensive study of examples. Prerequisite: [CW 206](#) or equivalent. Prerequisite: [CW 206](#) or equivalent.

455 WRITING TUTORIAL - NARRATIVE, POETRY, OR CREATIVE NONFICTION

This is a tutorial course for advanced student-writers in Narrative, Poetry, or Creative Nonfiction. In Narrative and Poetry, the tutorial is designed for students who have completed the advanced course in their primary genre (404 in Narrative, 406 in Poetry). In Creative Nonfiction, the tutorial is designed to follow the intermediate course, CW 208. Interested students need to find an instructor with the time available for such an arrangement. A substantial amount of writing is expected, either as a single longer project or as a series of shorter pieces. As in all tutorial arrangements, self-motivation and self-discipline are essential in successfully meeting the demands of the course. This course may be repeated for a total of 6 hours.

460 INTRO TO LITERARY EDITING

Practicum in which students learn all the stages of developing and editing a literary publication. Students will solicit, read, and select poems and stories for an online supplement to the Ninth Letter literary journal. At the end of the semester, the supplement will be published on the Ninth Letter website (www.ninthletter.com). Students will gain experience in professional communications, copyediting, and marketing. No graduate credit. Prerequisite: [CW 104](#) or [CW 106](#).

463 1U/1G ADVANCED TOPICS IN CREATIVE WRITING, Thompson-Spires. MW 11-12:15

TOPIC: It's Kind of a Funny Story: Writing Humor

This workshop course focuses on the history and craft of writing humor, with special attention to satire. Students will read a range of humorous works—from the creative nonfiction of David Sedaris to satirical fiction by Jonathan Swift and post-soul writers—in order to connect a range of craft principles about writing what makes us laugh—and think. The workshop component of the course will involve directed projects in fiction and creative nonfiction, with discussion and critique.