

Creative Writing

Division of Humanities

- **Minor: 19 credit hours**
- **Minor GPA required for graduation: 2.25**

Description of Minor: The creative writing minor benefits students who wish to develop their voices as writers of poetry and/or fiction. Students pursuing a creative writing minor will undertake intensive study of the forms and techniques of writing genres, emerging as writers of poetry or fiction that shows increasing originality, interest, technique, and confidence. Through their coursework, students will gain a greater understanding of the literary history and practices of poetry and fiction, while also learning to develop their own distinct writer's voice and building strengths in writing, editing, revising, and sensitivity to language. Coursework in the minor includes a study of the work of major writers of poetry and fiction; classes focusing on discussion, development, and improvement of student-written work; and classes that develop an understanding of the forms and history of language, the writer's medium. Students are given opportunities to practice literary editing through opportunities to participate in the campus student literary magazine, *Montage*.

Students pursuing a creative writing minor must complete a senior thesis containing a substantial, polished sample of their poetry or fiction. While particularly beneficial to those who wish to pursue a creative writing career, the minor promotes skills valuable in a variety of fields, including the fine arts, teaching, publishing, communications, and law.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Produce an original body of writing in poetry, fiction, or both.
- Understand the aesthetic standards by which poetry and fiction are read, written, and evaluated.
- Understand the relation of aesthetic form to content.
- Read a wide variety of writers and styles within creative writing genres.
- Enhance their sensitivity to language.
- Develop skills in oral and written communication.

CREATIVE WRITING

MINOR REQUIREMENTS	19 crs.
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REQUIRED COURSES	10 crs.
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ENG 205	INTRODUCTION TO WRITING POETRY (W)	3
ENG 206	INTRODUCTION TO WRITING FICTION (W)	3
ENG 331	LITERARY MAGAZINE EDITING	3
ENG 460	CREATIVE WRITING THESIS	1

TWO COURSES FROM THE FOLLOWING	6 crs.
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ENG 261	POETRY	3
<i>or</i>		
ENG 272	FICTION	3
ENG 305	ADVANCED WRITING OF POETRY (W)	3
<i>or</i>		
ENG 306	ADVANCED WRITING OF FICTION (W)	3

ELECTIVE	3 crs.
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ONE 300-LEVEL LITERATURE COURSE
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English (ENG)

ENG 111 ENGLISH I: ACADEMIC WRITING English I assists students in becoming competent academic writers by introducing them to important academic writing conventions, including analyzing and evaluating written texts. By utilizing various rhetorical strategies and applying basic research techniques, students will further develop the important skills entailed in prewriting, drafting, and revising as they write analytical and persuasive papers.	3	ENG 206 INTRODUCTION TO WRITING FICTION (W) This is a workshop course designed to help students develop an understanding of the basic artistic principles involved in fiction writing and to give them the opportunity to apply these principles in writing short fiction. Attention is paid to student work and to gaining critical appreciation of aesthetic principles through study of exemplary works of short fiction.	3
ENG 111L ACADEMIC WRITING LAB This course provides additional writing instruction. It is graded on a Credit/No Credit basis and must be passed in order to receive credit for ENG 111.	2	ENG 220-229 TOPICS IN WRITING, LANGUAGE, AND RHETORIC (W) These courses are fieldwork practicums that examine a particular subject not ordinarily treated in detail in other writing or language courses offered regularly by the department. Course topics might include areas such as gender and writing, autobiographical and biographical writing, tutoring in writing, or an introduction to rhetorical theory.	3
ENG 112 ENGLISH II: RESEARCH AND WRITING English II further prepares students for the types of academic writing expected in college, with emphasis on the development of critical and analytical skills for reading, research, and writing across the disciplines. The course reinforces process approaches to researched writing while continuing to develop skills in writing for multiple purposes, including analysis, evaluation, synthesis, and argumentation. Prerequisite: ENG 111.	3	ENG 232/332 BRITISH LITERATURE I: MONSTERS AND MIRACLES Students explore the poetry, drama, and prose of British literature from its beginnings in the 9th century through the mid-17th century. Texts are investigated within social, cultural, political, and philosophical contexts.	3
ENG 201 SHAKESPEARE This course serves as an introduction to Shakespeare's plays. In addition to reading a representative selection of his works from a variety of genres, students will also study the theatrical and cultural contexts of his life and times. Works may include Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, and A Midsummer Night's Dream.	3	ENG 233/333 BRITISH LITERATURE II: ROMANTICISM, REVOLUTION, AND THE NOVEL Students explore British literature beginning with the advent of Romanticism through the Victorian Period, twentieth-century Modernism and Postmodernism, to the present. Texts are investigated within social, cultural, political, and philosophical contexts.	3
ENG 203/303 AMERICAN LITERATURE TO 1900 The course includes a survey of early American writers from the Puritan period to the end of the nineteenth century. Emphasis is placed on the growth of Romanticism and the development of realism and naturalism in American literature. Authors may include Bradford, Bradstreet, Franklin, Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, Hawthorne, Melville, Dickinson, and Twain, among others.	3	ENG 235 EXPLORING GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN LITERATURE AND FILM This course is an in-depth exploration of how gender and sexuality are portrayed in literature and film, examining ways in which writers and filmmakers construct and challenge gender norms and stereotypes. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the complex ways in which gender and sexuality shape our world socially, politically, and psychologically.	3
ENG 204/304 AMERICAN LITERATURE FROM 1900 TO PRESENT The course includes a survey of American literature from the American realist period in the early twentieth century to contemporary American literature. Emphasis is placed on examining various expressions of American realism, regionalism, modernism, and postmodernism. Authors may include Dreiser, Cather, James, Wharton, Hemingway, Frost, Hughes, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, Williams, Eliot, Ellison, Wright, Brooks, O'Connor, Ginsberg, Morrison, and DeLillo, among others.	3	ENG 237 COMING-OF-AGE LITERATURE This class examines contemporary coming-of-age novels and short stories written for adults.	3
ENG 205 INTRODUCTION TO WRITING POETRY (W) This is a workshop course designed to help students develop an understanding of the basic artistic principles involved in poetry writing and to give them the opportunity to apply these principles in writing several poems. Attention is paid to student work and to gaining critical appreciation of aesthetic principles through study of exemplary works of poetry.	3	ENG 238 AMERICAN DREAMS/ AMERICAN REALITIES IN LITERATURE This course will examine contemporary explorations of the American Dream in novels written in the 20th and 21st centuries, asking students to analyze how authors respond to our evolving definition of the American Dream. The novels will be selected to represent a diverse American society, exploring race, class, and gender.	3

English (ENG)

ENG 250 DRAMATIC WORLD LITERATURE A survey of the world's dramatic masterpieces tracing the evolution of the theatre from the Greeks to the contemporary theatre. Emphasis is on dramatic literature in performance, and the survey includes the development of the theatre as a historical institution.	3	ENG 290 WAYS OF READING (W) This course introduces English majors to the principal approaches to literature. Primary emphasis will be given to the application of current critical approaches to selected works as well as to research methods within the discipline. Secondary emphasis will be given to selected topics currently under debate in the field. For English majors/minors. Note: The course does NOT count as a general education course fulfilling the literature core requirement.	3
ENG 254/354 AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE This course will examine African American novels, short stories, essays, music, and poetry written from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. Themes discussed may include constructions of racial identity, social consciousness, and race, class, and gender relations.	3	ENG 305 ADVANCED WRITING OF POETRY (W) This is a workshop course designed for students who have had previous course work in poetry writing, or other comparable experience and who wish substantial additional training in poetry writing beyond the introductory level. English 205 and 305 will be offered concurrently.	3
ENG 255 LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT This course will explore literature that focuses on the environment and environmental issues.	3	ENG 306 ADVANCED WRITING OF FICTION (W) This is a workshop course designed for students who have had previous course work in fiction writing or other comparable experience and who wish substantial additional training in fiction writing beyond the introductory level. English 206 and 306 will be offered concurrently.	3
ENG 261 POETRY This course focuses on how poems create meaning and emotion through distinct use of poetic language and form. Works of early to contemporary poets are studied. Class discussions center on gaining critical appreciation of the wide range of forms, styles, and voices of poetry through improved reading and wider exposure.	3	ENG 307 GRAMMAR (W) This course is intended to help students better understand the foundations of good writing. Students will master the principles of grammar not only as rules but as tools for communicating effectively. They will also learn how to evaluate writing.	3
ENG 272 FICTION This course focuses on works of fiction, including short stories and at least one novella or novel. Class discussions center on gaining critical understanding of the contexts and elements of fiction to improve appreciation and reading of fictional literary works.	3	ENG 313 TOPICS IN SHAKESPEARE This course offers an in-depth study of Shakespeare's plays, sources, genres, and culture. Students will also learn the history of Shakespearean criticism, performance, and reception. Works may include Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, and A Midsummer Night's Dream in addition to less well-known works. Prerequisite: instructor consent.	3
ENG 273 FILM AND LITERATURE This course will examine film adaptations of a variety of literary texts, including novels, short stories and plays, focusing on the unique characteristics of cinematic texts.	3	ENG 320-329 TOPICS IN WRITING, LANGUAGE, AND RHETORIC (W) These theoretically-informed courses examine a particular subject not ordinarily treated in detail in other writing or language courses offered regularly by the department. Course topics might include areas such as the construction of gender in writing, pedagogical theory and writing, or classical or contemporary rhetorical theory.	3
ENG 274/374 AMERICAN CRIME AND DETECTIVE FICTION This course explores the history of modern American crime fiction from Edgar Allen Poe's classic detective stories to hardboiled novels and ending with recent gritty variations. The course focuses on how the crime and detective genres work to manage cultural fears and social change.	3		
ENG 280-289 TOPICS IN LITERATURE Topics courses examine a particular topic, genre, or subject in literature not ordinarily treated in detail in other literature courses offered regularly by the department.	3		

English (ENG)

ENG 331 3

LITERARY MAGAZINE EDITING

This course covers introductory editing, production, and publishing of the undergraduate literary magazine. Students will learn steps to publish the spring term issue, including soliciting and evaluating writing and visual art that meet aesthetic standards, formatting contents for the print and web versions of the magazine, proofreading, understanding production budgets and timelines, and promoting the published magazine to the campus community. Instruction on the role of "little" literary magazines in American literature is included. This course may be retaken for credit. Prerequisite: Previous coursework in creative writing, art, literature, journalism, or communication, or instructor consent.

ENG 340 3

EDITING FOR PUBLICATION

This course introduces students to the principles and practices of editing, copyediting, and proofreading for print and digital publications. Students will develop skills in editing for audience, purpose, style, clarity, correctness, and conciseness. The class will also introduce students to commonly used publication style guides, decision-making processes used by professional editors, and editing as a profession.

ENG 360 3

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WRITING (W)

This course introduces students to the theories and practices of effective written communication in professional and technical fields. Students will develop skills in document design, use of graphics, and appropriate technical writing styles for print and digital documents. Students will also develop rhetorical strategies for writing for particular audiences.

ENG 380-389 3

TOPICS IN LITERATURE

This course examines a particular theme, genre, or subject in literature, not ordinarily treated in detail in other literature courses offered regularly by the department. Courses offered include such topics as Women in Literature, Gothic and Mystery Literature and Film, Science Fiction, and The Comic Tradition.

ENG 460 1

CREATIVE WRITING THESIS

Intended for students minoring in creative writing, ENG 460 is designed to help students develop and polish a substantial sample of original poetry or fiction. Working independently with the creative writing instructor, students will create a thesis collecting a substantial body of their own poetry or fiction, revised to publishable quality. Prerequisite: instructor consent and senior standing.

ENG 470 3-8

INTERNSHIP IN ENGLISH

Prerequisite: Instructor consent. No more than three hours may be counted toward the required total for the major.

ENG 480 1-4

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Prerequisite: Instructor consent.

ENG 490 3

SEMINAR IN ENGLISH (W)

This course allows English majors to continue their study of the principal approaches to literature. Further emphasis will be given to the application of current critical approaches to selected works; students will draw from their training in research methods to produce a substantial capstone project in literary criticism. For English majors/minors. NOTE: The course does NOT count as a general education course fulfilling the literature core requirement. Prerequisites: ENG 111, 112.