

Creative Writing Minor-1

Creative Writing Minor

Coordinator: Rosemurgy

The minor in creative writing offers students the opportunity to learn the craft of writing by studying the works of published writers, by writing and revising their own work, and by examining, critiquing, and supporting each others' work in and out of workshop.

The literature component of the minor will come from one of two courses: Contemporary Literature and Writing Communities. Emphasis in both of these courses will be placed on introducing students to the artistic range of contemporary literature. Students will read and discuss a variety of authors and poets who represent major developments in the trajectories of traditional and non-traditional aesthetics. Such reading will provide students with a repertoire of texts upon which to model their own creative work.

The workshop component of the minor is designed to provide incremental exposure to the writing process. At the 200 level (206/Creative Writing), students are introduced to multiple genres, such as poetry and fiction. They also discuss published work and complete writing exercises which focus on particular, isolated aspects of craft. Students are introduced to the workshop method, but the course is primarily lecture/discussion. At the 300 level, students continue their study in workshops that focus on a single genre (CWR 303/Playwriting, CWR 304/Poetry Workshop, CWR 305/Screenwriting, CWR/306 Fiction Workshop). These courses function primarily as workshops, with some lecture/discussion of published work and craft issues. The 400-level course (CWR 406/Writer's Workshop) is the most intensive course, a capstone class in creative writing, in which students must produce a significant body of work, such as a chapbook of poems, a series of stories, a full-length play, the beginning of a novel, or a combination of these.

Students interested in pursuing the minor should take CWR 206 as early as possible; it is the prerequisite for all 300- and 400-level workshops. Students must complete CWR 206 before they can declare the minor. Interested students should meet with one of the program coordinators for advisement and to plan their course of study—an official signature from a coordinator is required before the declaration of minor form will be accepted. Multiple minors may overlap by only one course.

Requirements for the creative writing minor:

Five course units

CWR 206/Creative Writing

LIT 288/Contemporary Literature or CWR 301/Writing Communities

Three *different* workshops at the 300 or 400 level—one must be either 304 or 306

CWR 303/Playwriting Workshop

CWR 304/Poetry Workshop

CWR 305/Screenwriting Workshop

CWR 306/Fiction Workshop

CWR 406/Writers' Workshop

- *Workshops can be repeated for credit, but only after fulfilling the above requirements.*
- No more than one course taken toward the student's major may be counted in the creative writing minor.

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COURSES

CWR 206/Creative Writing **1 course unit**

(every semester)

Required foundation course for Creative Writing minors. Students write and revise their own work, improving their craft through writing exercises and by discussing the writing of both published writers and their classmates. The primary focus is on fiction and poetry.

CWR 301/Writing Communities **1 course unit**

(annually)

Students engage with the campus, local, regional, and national literary communities. In addition to traditional reading and writing assignments, students organize a Visiting Writers Series, a Student Reading Series, and community projects. The assigned reading in the course will be the books by visiting authors, focusing on current literary trends.

CWR 303/Playwriting Workshop **1 course unit**

(same as TTR 303)

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: CWR 206 or permission of instructor

Analysis and practice of playwriting. Students read contemporary plays, write and revise their own plays, and provide oral and written critiques of their classmates' work in progress. The course will operate primarily as a workshop.

CWR 304/Poetry Workshop **1 course unit**

(annually)

Prerequisite: CWR 206 or permission of instructor

Analysis and practice of poetry. Students read contemporary published poetry, write and revise their own poetry, and provide oral and written critiques of their classmates' poetry. The course will operate primarily as a workshop.

CWR 305/Screenwriting Workshop **1 course unit**

(annually)

Prerequisite: CWR 206 is recommended but not required

Analysis and writing of screenplays. Students read feature film screenplays, analyze feature-length films, write and revise their own film scripts, and provide oral and written critiques of their classmates' work. The course will operate primarily as a workshop.

CWR 306/Fiction Workshop **1 course unit**

(annually)

Prerequisite: CWR 206 or permission of instructor

Analysis, discussion, and practice in the writing of fiction. Students read published work by contemporary authors, write and revise their own stories, and provide oral and written peer critiques of their classmates' work. The course will operate primarily as a workshop.

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CWR 406/Writers' Workshop (annually)

1 course unit

Prerequisites: CWR 206 and one 300-level creative writing workshop, or permission of instructor
This course serves as the “capstone class” for creative writing minors and other advanced creative writers. Students will produce a significant body of revised, polished, and publishable work—approximately 50 pages of prose or 20 pages of poetry. This portfolio takes the form of a chapbook of poems, a series of stories, a one-act play, screenplay, the beginning of a novel, or a combination of these.