Creative Writing Course Descriptions

ENGL 130: Introduction to Fiction Writing

A course in reading and writing fiction. Close study of a wide range of short stories; emphasis on technical problems. Class criticism and discussion of student exercises and stories.

ENGL 131: Introduction to Poetry Writing

A course in reading and writing poems. Close study of a wide range of published poetry and of poetic terms and techniques. Composition, discussion and revision of original student poems.

ENGL 132H: First Year Honors: Introduction to Fiction Writing

Close study of the craft of the short story and novella through a wide range of reading, with emphasis on technical strategies. Class discussion of student exercises and stories.

ENGL 133H: First Year Honors: Introduction to Poetry Writing

Close study of a wide range of published poems and of the basic terms and techniques of poetry. Composition and discussion and revision of a number of original poems.

ENGL 138: Intro to Creative Non-fiction

Creative nonfiction requires you to observe like a poet, investigate like a reporter, and write like a novelist. In this course we will read some of the most influential and exciting prose of the past sixty years as fuel for our own experiments in travel narrative, personal essay, and immersive journalism. In workshop you will learn to develop a piece from initial concept through reporting, writing, and rewriting.

ENGL 206: Intermediate Fiction Writing

Prerequisite, English 130 or 132H and permission of the Director of Creative Writing. Substantial practice in those techniques employed in introductory course. A workshop devoted to the extensive writing of fiction (at least two short stories), with an emphasis on style, structure, dramatic scene, and revision.

ENGL 207: Intermediate Poetry Writing
Prerequisite, English 131 or 133H and permission of the Director of Creative Writing. An intensification of the introductory class. A workshop devoted to close examination of selected exemplary poems and the students’ own poetry, with an emphasis on regular writing and revising.

ENGL 208: Reading and Writing Creative Non-Fiction

Prerequisite, English 130, 131, 132H, or 133H and permission of the Director of Creative Writing. A course in reading and writing creative non-fiction, focusing on three of its most important forms, including the personal essay, travel writing, and writing about the natural world.

ENGL 307: Studies in Fiction and Poetry: Stylistics

Prerequisite, ENGL 130, 131, 132H, or 133H and permission of the Director of Creative Writing. Creative writing minors only. An occasional intermediate-level course, which may focus on such topics as Poetry Imitation, Prose Imitation, Living Writers, and Poetic Forms, but which is offered every fall as Gram-o-Rama, the close study of language and grammar as tools of style, a class involving numerous short exercises and the collaborative development and production of a language-arts show based on original exercises.

ENGL 396: Directed Readings in English or Creative Writing

Intensive reading on a particular topic under the supervision of a member of the staff. Section 001 (English) requires special permission of Committee on Honors. Section 002 (Creative Writing) requires special permission of the Director of the Creative Writing Program.

ENGL 406: Advanced Fiction Writing

Prerequisite, ENGL 206 and permission of the Director of Creative Writing. A continuation of the Intermediate workshop with emphasis on the short story, novella, and novel. Extensive discussion of student work in class and in conferences with instructor.

ENGL 407: Advanced Poetry Writing

Prerequisite, ENGL 207 and permission of the Director of Creative Writing. A continuation of the Intermediate workshop, with increased writing and revising of poems. Extensive discussion of student poetry in class and in conferences with instructor.

ENGL 412: Creative Writing: Special Topics
Permission of the Director of Creative Writing required. Creative Writing minors only. An occasional advanced-level course, which may focus on such topics as: advanced creative non-fiction; editing and publishing; the lyric in song; and collaboration between lyricists and composers; the one-act play; and short-short fiction.

ENGL 693H: Creative Writing Senior Honors Thesis, Part 1

Prerequisite, ENGL 130, 131, 132H, or 133H; ENGL 206 or 207; ENGL 406 or 407; and permission of the Director of Creative Writing. The first half of a two-semester seminar. Each student begins a book of fiction (25,000 words) or poetry (1000 lines). Extensive discussion of student work in class and in conferences.

ENGL 694H: Creative Writing Senior Honors Thesis, Part 2

Prerequisite, ENGL 130, 131, 132H, or 133H; ENGL 206 or 207; ENGL 406 or 407; ENGL 693H; and permission of the Director of Creative Writing. Restricted to senior honors candidates. The second half of a two-semester seminar. Each student completes a book of fiction or poetry. Extensive discussion of student work in class and in conferences with instructor.