

Creative Writing Minor

Coordinators: Day, Rosemurgy

Description: 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 (WRI 303/Playwriting, WRI 304/Poetry Workshop, WRI 305/Screenwriting, WRI/306 Fiction Workshop). These courses function primarily as workshops, with some lecture/discussion of published work and craft issues. The 400-level course (WRI 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 WRI 206 as early as possible; it is the prerequisite for all 300- and 400-level workshops. Students must complete WRI 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 two courses.

Requirements for the creative writing minor:

Five course units

WRI 206/Creative Writing

LIT 288/Contemporary Literature or WRI 301/Writing Communities

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

WRI 303/Playwriting Workshop

WRI 304/Poetry Workshop

WRI 305/Screenwriting Workshop

WRI 306/Fiction Workshop