Course Information: Spring 2012

English 5-16, Creative Writing

ENG 0005-01
Creative Writing: Fiction
Downing, M

In this workshop, you will work as a writer and reader of new fiction. All participants write original short stories, which they read aloud in class, discuss with their colleagues, and revise during the semester. In addition, they address specific challenges of tone, style, structure, and point of view by writing brief experimental fictions (50 to 250 words), which illustrate how writers invent dramatically different solutions to a single problem. There are two fundamental requirements: Be present. Be productive. At the semester's end, writers select their best work and compile a portfolio to represent their progress and accomplishments.

ENG 0005-02
Creative Writing: Fiction
Hershman, M

Our fiction workshop focuses on the power to be found in concision, where a writer's skill at crafting essential details serves to deepen a work. The first four weeks highlight in-class writing exercises and discussions of published short stories; students also write a series of interlinked scenes to explore ideas about voice, character development, pacing, plot, and the surprises inherent in deep imagination. Over the balance of the term and in response to meeting individual deadlines, students present two full short stories, one rewrite, and one short-short for workshop discussion, editing, and critique.

ENG 0005-03
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Hershman, M

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ENG 0005-04
Creative Writing: Fiction
Hurka, J

This course is designed to help you develop the essential elements of creative prose: voice, description, and empathy. Particular emphasis will be placed on precision of language, and how the voice of a story must work in tandem with conscience.

You'll also have a look at fiction, poetry, and essays written by masters. We will investigate the current publishing world, so that if you want to send out your work at the end of the semester, you can do so. Finally, I would like you to read your work in progress on class days that we will schedule together, and to comment carefully and thoughtfully on the work of your classmates when they do the same.

ENG 0005-05
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Hurka, J

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You’ll also have a look at fiction, poetry, and essays written by masters. We will investigate the current publishing world, so that if you want to send out your work at the end of the semester, you can do so. Finally, I would like you to read your work in progress on class days that we will schedule together, and to comment carefully and thoughtfully on the work of your classmates when they do the same.

ENG 0005-06
Creative Writing: Fiction
Johnston, S

This is an intensive course for those who really want to learn to write. No previous experience is necessary, though students who have studied creative writing before are welcome and often enjoy the course -- we even get some former students who return for a second semester. In the course, you'll work closely on every phase of writing fiction: generating ideas, drafting, and revision. As you do so, you'll have a chance to explore and discover your voice as a writer, as well as learning how to develop strong fictional characters, working with the elements of plot and point of view, learning to write and punctuate dialogue, and employing setting, subtext, and theme. Be prepared to work hard, but if you love to write, you'll get a lot of feedback on your work. Student response from the past indicates that this course is challenging but fun.

ENG 0005-07
Creative Writing: Fiction
Johnston, S

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ENG 0005-08
Creative Writing: Fiction
Weesner, Jr., T

This course is an introduction to fiction writing. Our mission through the semester will be to examine and practice the craft that underpins a well-made short story. Often we will come together as a workshop, where we will help a writer to see the range of possibility in his or her work. Other activities will include weekly readings from an anthology of contemporary fiction—to take apart, to study as potential models—and exercises that will allow for further practice of various fictional techniques. Of the two longer stories you write, one will be substantively revised. In a larger sense you will have the opportunity to find both your creative voice and the stories you need to tell. By delving into the craft of fiction writing, we will look to uncover a measure of its mystery and art.

ENG 0005-09
Creative Writing: Fiction
Weesner, Jr., T

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ENG 0005-10
Creative Writing: Fiction
Levinson, N
This course is for students who want to write good stories. One way to develop that ability is to write a lot, so work includes several short pieces, a longer, fully-realized story, some revisions and lots of talk. The class operates primarily as a workshop, in which we discuss each other's work and the elements and sum of accomplished fiction. Students also work on developing their ideas about good writing by reading published stories and what writers have to say about their work.

ENG 0006-01
Creative Writing: Poetry
Gibson, R

A workshop in writing poetry is a place to experiment. We will try on various accomplishments in the poetic tradition – metrics, rhyme schemes, free verse, stanza breaks, shapes, tone, even content, etc. In this class, you will sometimes attempt to imitate, and find it oddly liberating. You may throw out these experiments once accomplished, and try something entirely different. You may embrace old forms as your own. Sometimes, the very poems you've shied away from are the ones waiting to teach you! The class is a workshop with some assigned exercises.

ENG 0006-02
Creative Writing: Poetry
Gibson, R

ENG 0006-03
Creative Writing: Poetry
Gosztyla, M

This course is a beginning poetry workshop whose primary text is your poems. Each week we will read and discuss your work. We'll be thinking about what makes a powerful free verse poem as you develop a more sophisticated vocabulary regarding the high art of making poems. Requirements for the class include your willingness to write a great deal, to attend class regularly, and to meet with me in conference over the course of the semester.

ENG 0006-04
Creative Writing: Poetry
Gosztyla, M

ENG 0007-01
Creative Writing: Journalism
Miller, N

This course is an introduction to the nuts-and-bolts of print journalism. We'll focus on researching and writing news stories, features, profiles, opinion pieces, and reviews. The aim of the course will be to develop reporting and interviewing skills, master journalistic principles and forms, and encourage clear thinking and clear writing. Students will cover stories both on- and off-campus. They will read their work in class, with class members taking on the roles of editors. We'll also take a close look at the local and national press and examine how they cover various stories.

ENG 0007-02
Creative Writing: Journalism
Miller, N
This course is an introduction to the nuts-and-bolts of print journalism. We'll focus on researching and writing news stories, features, profiles, opinion pieces, and reviews. The aim of the course will be to develop reporting and interviewing skills, master journalistic principles and forms, and encourage clear thinking and clear writing. Students will cover stories both on- and off-campus. They will read their work in class, with class members taking on the roles of editors. We'll also take a close look at the local and national press and examine how they cover various stories.

ENG 0009-01
Writing Fiction: Intermediate
Strong, J

This section of English 9 is designed for students who have had some experience in writing fiction. It will provide deadlines, a forum for reading aloud and constructively criticizing each other's work, and the expectation that you will create life on the page in a language natural to you. Regular attendance and spirited participation will be valued. This course is open without permission of the instructor to students who have taken English 5 or 6 (Fiction) or to students, who haven't taken the preliminary course, with permission.

ENG 0009-02
Writing Fiction: Intermediate
Strong, J

This section of English 9 is designed for students who have had some experience in writing fiction. It will provide deadlines, a forum for reading aloud and constructively criticizing each other's work, and the expectation that you will create life on the page in a language natural to you. Regular attendance and spirited participation will be valued. This course is open without permission of the instructor to students who have taken English 5 or 6 (Fiction) or to students, who haven't taken the preliminary course, with permission.

ENG 0010-01
Non-Fiction Writing
Ullman, M

A course intended to improve students' writing while they are discovering and exploring various forms of non-fiction: journals, journalism, autobiography, biographical or historical essays, reviews, features, magazine writing. I urge students to develop their own subjects and approaches.

ENG 0011-01
Intermediate Journalism
Levinson, N

Journalism is in flux and what the news media will be like in the coming years is up for grabs, but the nuts and bolts remain the same: getting the story by tuning into events and convincing people to tell us what we need to know; finding and using sources effectively; investigating and analyzing events; and reporting them accurately and engagingly. This course gives student journalists the opportunity to sharpen those skills by writing stories regularly, as they learn the craft and business of the field. Students work independently on topics of their choosing to practice news reporting and feature writing for various journalism platforms. The class will also discuss practical, ethical and legal issues in the news media and meet at times with professional journalists. Prerequisite: Familiarity with the basics of news reporting.

ENG 0013-01
Writing Fiction: Advanced
Wilson, J

More advanced than English 10, English 13 is open without permission to students who have already taken at least two fiction-writing courses, and one intermediate fiction. Students who have not taken two courses but who have done a fair amount of writing on their own may be admitted with permission of the instructor. English 13 may be repeated for credit.
The goal of this workshop will be for advanced student poets to create their best work. Our primary text will be student poems and our primary activity will be the workshop, where we will focus on strategies of economy and revision. The theme of our occasional assigned readings will be rhythm and free verse, and we will consider together the question of what distinguishes metrical verse from contemporary modes of rhythm. Independent student reading projects will be tailored towards individual need. The written work for the course will consist of the creation of a portfolio of original poems and a single work of critical prose (not a traditional essay, but an imaginative inquiry into a question pertaining to your own creative efforts). Admission to this course will be by application: please submit a letter of interest and a writing sample of five poems to the instructor by the end of the Fall semester. This course can be repeated for credit.