Course Information: Spring 2017

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 portfolios to represent their progress and accomplishment.

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
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 0005-04
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Hurka, J.

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ENG 0005-05
Creative Writing: Fiction
Johnston, S.

Create your own short stories as you develop your fiction-writing voice through writing exercises and varied readings in this small, supportive workshop. Topics include developing characters, constructing a plot, creating a believable setting, and writing dialogue. Students will discuss scenes from short stories in progress, exchanging thoughtful, constructive criticism. Discussion will be guided by an experienced and responsive instructor who has won awards for teaching as well as for published writing.

ENG 0005-06
Creative Writing: Fiction
Johnston, S.

Create your own short stories as you develop your fiction-writing voice through writing exercises and varied readings in this small, supportive workshop. Topics include developing characters, constructing a plot, creating a believable setting, and writing dialogue. Students will discuss scenes from short stories in progress, exchanging thoughtful, constructive criticism. Discussion will be guided by an experienced and responsive instructor who has won awards for teaching as well as for published writing.

ENG 0005-07
Creative Writing: Fiction
Levinson, N.

This is a class for students who like stories and want to write good ones. Probably the best way to develop that ability is to write a lot, so your work will include several short pieces, a longer, fully-realized story, revising, reading, and much talk. We'll work as a free-wheeling community of writers, discussing each other's work and the elements and sum of accomplished fiction. You'll also develop your ideas about what makes stories sing by reading published fiction and writers writing about writing.
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
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ENG 0005-10
Creative Writing: Fiction
Mondanipour, S.

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 0006-01
Creative Writing: Poetry
Kaiser-Gibson, R.

This course is about slowing down to hear yourself beneath the chatter of the modern world. It's also about allowing yourself to leap, to transcend the mundane. You will be surprised by what you are able to write and impressed with your new perspectives on others' poetry. This course is open to you whether you've written poetry before or not. With the support of the class, you will be writing a draft of a new poem every week, the course will culminate in a portfolio of six poems that have been through revisions, and a final paper that reflects on your discoveries. All are welcome!

ENG 0006-02
Creative Writing: Poetry
Kaiser-Gibson, R.

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ENG 0006-03
Creative Writing: Poetry
Larkin, T.

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 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 0007-01
Creative Writing: Journalism
Miller, N.

This course is an introduction to the nuts-and-bolts of 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  
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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 recognizably rounded characters and visualized settings in a language natural to you. I want you to find your own individual voice, your own first-hand fictional territory that is not limited by the conventions of a particular genre. Our common ground will be stories that inhabit the world as we know it. We will rule out fantasy, magic, myth, and fable because such stories require a quite different premise for discussion that lies outside the scope of this course. 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.

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ENG 0010-01
Non-Fiction Writing
Ullman, M.

This course will explore various forms of non-fiction writing, including memoir, profile, descriptive and personal essay, travel-writing, and reviews. Throughout the semester students will work on series of short weekly papers. Towards the end of the course, they will complete a longer piece of work in a particular area of interest. Students will read their work in class as often as possible, with classes functioning as workshops. During the semester, the instructor will assign readings that correspond to the area of non-fiction we are focusing on at a particular point, and these readings will be discussed in class. Limited to 12.

ENG 0011-01
Intermediate Journalism
Levinson, N.

The news media is always evolving, but the nuts and bolts of good journalism remain the same: getting the story by tuning into what's happening now and convincing people to tell us what we need to know; finding and using sources effectively; unearthing and verifying information; investigating and analyzing events; and reporting all that accurately and engagingly. This course gives you, as working journalists, the opportunity to sharpen these skills by writing stories regularly as you learn the craft and practicalities of the field. You'll work independently on topics of your choosing to practice news reporting and feature writing for various platforms in the journalism ecosystem. We'll discuss practical, ethical and legal issues in the news media and meet with professional journalists. Prerequisite: Familiarity with the basics of news reporting.
ENG 0013-01
Writing Fiction: Advanced
Cantor, J.

More advanced than English 10, English 13 is open without permission to students who have already taken at least two fiction-writing courses at any level. 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.

ENG 0016-01
Forms of Poetry
Shapero, N.

This workshop course will allow students the opportunity to develop their own poetic voices by engaging with and complicating an array of formal constraints in contemporary poetry. Students will read work by a wide variety of poets, including six recent full-length collections of poetry, in order to understand how poets utilize traditional and experimental approaches to form in the service of their own unique poetic projects and personas. In the first (shorter) portion of each class meeting, we'll engage in explication of the assigned reading. The second (longer) portion of class will be a workshop, in which we review and discuss one another's written work, making collaborative suggestions for revision. Students should have previous poetry workshop experience.
Prerequisites: ENG0006 required.