

## English/Creative Writing

Department Chair: Judith Petterson Clark, M.A., Ph.D.

Written language is a principal repository of the values of human civilization and a continually evolving tool by which we construct our lives. The English/Creative Writing curriculum articulates and embodies our understanding of the skills and knowledge students need in order to achieve the literacy essential to engaged citizenship. The curriculum offers students the opportunity to gain a historical perspective on literature as an institution and to develop a sense of the uses of literary criticism and theory. In addition, the curriculum provides excellent preparation in courses that teach and encourage fluent writing, a skill which students in all areas of study will find valuable. This curriculum also emphasizes the contributions of women and minority voices to literature, criticism, and language, and encourages students to continue to augment those contributions.

### The English and Creative Writing Majors

Students may earn a Bachelor of Arts in English or a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. The English and Creative Writing majors prepare students for graduate study and careers in a range of fields including but not limited to literature, law, humanities, art history, political or social sciences, philosophy, women's studies, history, writing, professional editing and production, public relations, and writing for the stage and screen.

Because the faculty represents a broad array of the specialties, majors in English and Creative Writing allow students to complete the requirements by combining studies in literatures, writing, language and women's creative writing.

All English and Creative Writing majors will participate in the College assessment of programs offering disciplinary majors.

### Requirements for the B.A. Major in English

The bachelor of arts major in English requires completion of the liberal arts requirements and at least 39 hours in ENG, including the following: 3 hours to enter the English/Creative Writing community; 6 hours in American literatures, 6 hours in English literary traditions to build perspective; 3 hours focusing on women's literatures in English to address issues of cultural difference; 3 hours to understand modes of criticism, 3 hours to address ethical issues, 3 hours to demonstrate mature, literate prose, and a 3 hour senior capstone course in the form of an independent research essay. In addition, the student takes 3 hours of women's studies and chooses 9 to 12 hours from other ENG offerings up to a total of 45 hours. At least 15 hours in the major must be at or above the 300 level.

English majors must earn a C or better in the required courses, and must maintain a C average over all courses in the major. If a student earns less than a C in a required course, she must repeat it in order to improve her grade. *English majors are also required to attend readings and presentations by departmental students, faculty and guests.*

### Required Courses

ENG 110: Conversations: Authors and Audiences (3 hrs.)

ENG 269: American Literatures I (3 hrs.)

ENG 270: American Literatures II (3 hrs.)

ENG 271: English Literary Traditions I (3 hrs.)

ENG 272: English Literary Traditions II (3 hrs.)

ENG 305: Advanced Composition (3 hrs.)

ENG 308: Women Writers (3 hrs.)

ENG 340: Language: Uses and Abuses (3 hrs.)

ENG 372: Criticism and Culture (3 hrs.)

ENG 490: Senior Essay (3 hrs.) (not Senior Project)

WST 210: Introduction to Women's Studies (3 hrs.)

In addition, the student takes 3 hours of women's studies and 9 to 12 hours, chosen from literatures, creative writing, and writing and language

### Requirements for the B.F.A. Major in Creative Writing

The bachelor of fine arts in creative writing requires completion of the liberal arts requirements, and at least 61 semester hours and no more than 75 hours in the major including a minimum of 18 hours of writing courses, 3 hours in WST, 27 hours in the required English core courses, at least 9 hours in English electives, 1-7 hours of internship and a 3 hour senior capstone course. At least 15 hours in the major must be at or above the 300 level.

Creative writing majors must maintain a C average overall in courses in the major, and must earn a C or better in ENG 490: Senior Project. *Creative writing majors are also required to attend readings and presentations by departmental students, faculty and guests.*

### Required Writing Courses (minimum 18 hrs.)

(B.F.A. students must be continuously enrolled in at least 3 semester hours in any of the following genres for each semester after they declare the major. Students must take ENG 210, ENG 212 and a minimum of 3 genres.)

ENG 210: Introduction to Creative Writing (3 hrs.)  
ENG 212: Introduction to Writing for Stage and Screen (3 hrs.)  
ENG 240: Writing Creative Non-Fiction (3 hrs.)  
ENG 242: Intermediate Creative Writing (3 hrs.)  
ENG 250: Screenwriting II (3 hrs.)  
ENG 311: Fiction Workshop (3-6 hrs.)  
ENG 312: Playwriting Workshop (3-6 hrs.)  
ENG 313: Poetry Workshop (3-6 hrs.)  
ENG 314: Autobiography Workshop (3-6 hrs.)  
ENG 315: Creative Writing Workshop: Screenwriting (3-6 hrs.)

### Required English Courses (27 hrs.)

ENG 110: Conversations: Authors and Audiences (3 hrs.)  
ENG 269: American Literatures I (3 hrs.)  
ENG 270: American Literatures II (3 hrs.)  
ENG 271: English Literary Traditions I (3 hrs.)  
ENG 272: English Literary Traditions II (3 hrs.)  
ENG 305: Advanced Composition (3 hrs.)  
ENG 308: Women Writers (3 hrs.)  
ENG 340: Language: Uses and Abuses (3 hrs.)  
ENG 372: Criticism and Culture (3 hrs.)

### Required Women's Studies Course

WST 210: Introduction to Women's Studies (3 hrs.)

### English Electives

At least 9 hours required

### Program Internships

Internship (1 hour required; 6 hours more may be elected)

ENG 396: *Harbinger* Editing Internships

Register other internships by independent study.

### Required Capstone

ENG 490: Senior Project (3 hrs.) (not Senior Essay)

### Requirements for a Minor in English

(Not open to Creative Writing majors.)

A minor in English requires completion of a minimum of 15 hours with a maximum of 24 hours.

One must be chosen from the following:

ENG 269: American Literatures I (3 hrs.)

ENG 270: American Literatures II (3 hrs.)

ENG 271: English Literary Traditions I (3 hrs.)

ENG 272: English Literary Traditions II (3 hrs.) **and** ENG 308: Women Writers (3 hrs.)

plus

9 hrs of ENG electives including 3 hrs at or above 300 level.

### Requirements for a Minor in Creative Writing

(Not open to English majors.)

A minor in Creative Writing requires completion of a minimum of 15 hours with a maximum of 24 hours.

One must be chosen from the following:

ENG 269: American Literatures I (3 hrs.)

ENG 270: American Literatures II (3 hrs.)

ENG 271: English Literary Traditions I (3 hrs.)

ENG 272: English Literary Traditions II (3 hrs.) **and** ENG 308: Women Writers (3 hrs.)

plus

9 hrs of ENG electives chosen from creative writing courses,  
including 3 hrs at or above 300 level.

## Requirements for a Minor in Language and Culture

(Not open to English or Creative Writing majors.)

A minor in Language and Culture requires completion of a minimum of 18 hours with a maximum of 24 hours.

One must be chosen from the following:

- ENG 269: American Literatures I (3 hrs.)
- ENG 271: English Literary Traditions I (3 hrs.)
- ENG 342: World Mythologies (3 hrs.)

and

- ENG 240: Writing Non-Fiction (3 hrs.)
- ENG 305: Advanced Composition (3 hrs.)
- ENG 308: Women Writers (3 hrs.)
- ENG 340: Language Use and Abuse (3 hrs.) \*
- ENG 372: Criticism and Culture (3 hrs.)

May take additional ENG courses up to a total of 24 hours.

\*Legal Studies majors who choose this minor must take another ENG course to substitute for ENG 340 Language Use and Abuse as this is required in that major. Recommend LGS majors to take ENG 271 and ENG 269.

## English and the Liberal Studies Major

In the residential program, the Department of English/Creative Writing offers one concentration, Writing and Language, and three minors, English, Creative Writing, and Language and Culture, that are available for the liberal studies major. Only one of these may be included in a liberal studies major. See the Liberal Studies section of the catalog for complete information about the concentrations and the major. Students including English or Creative Writing in a liberal studies major also participate in the departmental assessment of majors.

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## English/Creative Writing Courses

### ENG 110: Conversations: Authors and Audiences

(3 hrs.)

(Open to all students; *required* of ENG/CRW majors; recommended for ENG/CRW minors.)

This course helps students discover and sharpen their own skills as authors and audiences through writing and conversations with visiting writers. Students will also contract to participate as authors and/or audiences in a number of literary events at the college and in the Columbia community.

### ENG 210: Introduction to Creative Writing

(3 hrs.)

(Open to all students; *required* of Creative Writing majors.)

This course helps students discover and sharpen their skills as creative writers, readers and editors. Concentrating on nonfiction, poetry, and fiction, the class establishes a creative writing community with each class member presenting her work to the whole class, as well as to the instructor, for responses and revision suggestions. Students whose skills and experience in creative writing make a beginning-level course inappropriate may be advanced upon recommendation of the English/Creative Writing faculty.

### ENG 212: Introduction to Writing for Stage and Screen

(3 hrs.)

(Open to all students; cross-listed as DFM 212; *required* of Creative Writing majors.)

This course is designed as an introduction to writing for performance in which students will explore a variety of ways to creatively express themselves in dramatic form. The emphasis of this course is on both the creative craft of the writing process, culminating in written projects as well as learning the basic, structure of story and character.

### ENG 230: Screenwriting I

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: DFM 187 or DFM 188 or permission of instructor. Cross-listed with DFM 230)

This course is designed as an introduction to screenwriting, focusing on the foundations of linear, visual storytelling for the screen.

**ENG 240: Writing Non-Fiction**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208; or department recommendation)

(offered alternate years)

The powerful expressive and persuasive impact of the essay has been recognized and celebrated by many of the greatest writers of the past and present. Women, especially, now publish substantial volumes of influential and moving essays. This course studies contemporary essays and provides practice (in a workshop setting) in the form and style of writing nonfiction prose.

**ENG 242: Intermediate Creative Writing**

(3 hrs.)

(May be repeated, up to 9 semester hours in different genres)

(Prerequisites: ENG 210 and ENG 212 or department recommendation)

This course provides opportunities for intermediate-level creative writing, focusing on craft and technique and helping prepare students with some creative writing experience for the advanced, creative writing workshops. Students sharpen their writing, reading and revision skills as well as explore the structural and content possibilities of the studied genre.

**ENG 250: Screenwriting II**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: Eng 212, or DFM/ENG 230 or permission of instructor. Cross-listed with DFM 250)

Screenwriting II is an intermediate-level course focusing on linear storytelling for the screen. Students will deepen their knowledge and experience of previously introduced screenwriting tools, including structure, character, conflict, action, dialogue, and visual storytelling. Adaptation and non-traditional story structures for film will be introduced.

**ENG 255: Literary Studies**

(3 hrs.)

(May be repeated for credit with different topic)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208)

This course presents a variety of topics that cut across national boundaries and time limits with varying emphasis on themes, motifs, movements and comparisons. Topics have included "World's Great Novels," "Chinese Literature," "Reading Poetry," "Biography and Autobiography," and "World Drama."

**ENG 257: Fairy Tales and Folklore**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208) (offered alternate years)

This course takes an historical and cross-cultural approach as it introduces students to the many forms of folklore including fairy tales, urban legends, folksongs and jokes. Students study the importance of folklore in culture and gain direct experience in the methods of folklore collection and performance.

**ENG 269: American Literatures I**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208; *required* of English and Creative Writing majors.) (offered alternating Fall semesters)

This course introduces students to a range of primary texts, usually in a number of genres, written before the 20th century and investigates the ways various circumstances in the writing and the reading processes, as well as in the culture at large, come together to make an "American Literature."

**ENG 270: American Literatures II**

(3 hrs.)

(May be repeated for credit with a different topic up to 6 semester hours)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208; *required* of English and Creative Writing majors.)

(offered alternating Spring semesters)

Usually more narrowly focused than ENG 269, this course intensively studies a particular 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century American literature. Depending on the individual instructor, the course will use an organizing principle such as a specific time, place, cultural movement, or event to bring together a set of related texts, often from a number of literary genres.

**ENG 271: English Literary Traditions I**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208; *required* of English and Creative Writing majors.) (offered alternating Fall semesters)

A study of early and early modern English literatures and language with emphasis on three historical and cultural contexts selected in part for their interest in light of new readings about women and popular culture, such as those on the representation of the warrior woman or the outsider.

**ENG 272: English Literary Traditions II**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208; *required* of English and Creative Writing majors.) (offered alternating Spring semesters)

A study of Restoration and Post-Restoration English and Colonial and Post-Colonial literatures, arranged to consider the cultural politics of canons. Readings include both canonical and popular literature.

**ENG 280: Topics in Writing, Language and Literatures**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208 and permission of instructor)

Topics courses are devoted to special subjects that may not be covered in depth in other courses.

**ENG 305: Advanced Composition**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208 with at least a grade of C- or department recommendation; *required* of English and Creative Writing majors.) (offered alternate years)

This advanced course gives students opportunities to expand the writing, reading, and critical thinking skills explored in basic composition classes; to practice rhetorical strategies, including argument; and to learn the art and discipline of writing for publication in academic fields.

**ENG 308: Women Writers**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208 and one 3 hour 200-level ENG or WST course; or permission of instructor; cross listed as WST 308; *required* of English and Creative Writing majors.)

(offered alternating Spring semesters)

This course analyzes women's literatures in English of various cultures and periods considering the history of critical attention given to them. In addition to standard genres of poetry, fiction and drama, this course may include reading in nontraditional genres: essays, diaries and letters, and performance art.

**ENG 311: Creative Writing Workshop: Fiction**

(3 hrs.)

(May be repeated up to 6 semester hours)

(Prerequisite: ENG 210; ENG 240 or ENG 242 and permission of instructor)

(offered alternate years)

This course advances the experienced creative writer to more sophisticated fictional projects. Reading published short fiction as well as each other's work, students explore issues of form, craft and subject matter from the perspective of the fiction writer's position in contemporary culture.

**ENG 312: Creative Writing Workshop: Playwriting**

(3 hrs.)

(May be repeated up to 6 semester hours)

(Prerequisite: ENG 210, ENG 212 and permission of instructor)

(offered alternate years)

This course advances the experienced creative writer to more sophisticated dramatic projects. Reading works by professionals as well as by classmates, students explore issues of form, craft, subject matter and performance from the perspective of the playwright in contemporary culture.

**ENG 313: Creative Writing Workshop: Poetry**

(3 hrs.)

(May be repeated up to 6 semester hours)

(Prerequisite: ENG 210; ENG 240 or ENG 242 and permission of instructor)

(offered alternate years)

This course advances the experienced creative writer to more sophisticated poetic projects. Reading published poetry as well as each other's work, students explore issues of form, craft, subject matter and audience from the perspective of the poet's position in contemporary culture.

**ENG 314: Creative Writing Workshop: Autobiography**

(3 hrs.)

(May be repeated up to 6 semester hours)

(Prerequisite: ENG 210; ENG 240 or ENG 242 and permission of instructor)

(offered alternate years)

This course advances the experienced creative writer to more sophisticated projects focused on autobiographical subjects. Emphasis is on both theoretical and craft issues surrounding the constitution of the gendered self through

autobiographical writing such as sketches, journals, memoirs and dream cycles.

**ENG 315: Creative Writing Workshop: Screenwriting**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: ENG 212 or ENG 230; ENG 250 and permission of the instructor)

(May be repeated up to 6 semester hours)

This course advances the experienced creative writer to more sophisticated screenwriting projects. Reading produced screenplays as well as works by classmates, students explore issues of form, craft, subject matter, and production from the perspective of the screenwriter in contemporary culture.

**ENG 319: Twentieth Century Poetry**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208 and one 3 hour 200-level ENG course, junior standing; or permission of the instructor.)

In this course students study a wide range of poetry written in the 20th century. Depending on the instructor, the course may organize readings around a variety of themes, historical events, poetic movements, cultures, and/or categories.

**ENG 340: Language: Uses and Abuses**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208, junior standing or permission of instructor; *required* of English and Creative Writing majors.) (offered alternate years)

Language and literacy have the power to inspire or to debase, to communicate or to deceive, to liberate or to enslave.

This course explores the ethical implications of language use, especially in the realms of advertising, politics, the arts and the professions, as well as private life, and considers the impact of changing technologies on the role of language in the present and the future.

**ENG 342: World Mythologies**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208, junior standing or permission of instructor)

(offered alternate years)

This course explores selected mythological texts and practices from a wide range of cultures, both current and historical, and examines the role in contemporary life of mythological—rather than scientific or historical—thought.

**ENG 345: Shakespeare**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208; and one 3 hour 200-level ENG course, junior standing or permission of instructor)

A study of the plays of Shakespeare in their historical theatrical context and in light of new readings in performance studies and in the representations of gender, race, class, and nationality.

**ENG 360: Western World Literatures**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208, and one 3 hour 200-level ENG course, junior standing or permission of instructor)

This course reads works of literature from England, the Continent, and the Americas with special reference to the changing roles of women and variously disempowered people.

**ENG 367: Development of the Novel**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208 and one 3 hour 200-level ENG course, junior standing or permission of instructor)

A study of the novel from its early forms in England. Historically arranged, the texts are explored with special attention to the representations of gender, class, race and nationality, and to a variety of critical approaches to the genre.

**ENG 369: American Novels**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208 and one 3 hour 200-level ENG course, junior standing or permission of instructor)

The compelling power of American novels comes from the ability to give speech to the many and varied voices of American life and thus to provide a space for the literary representation of cultural conflict. Organized historically or thematically, this course explores the possibilities and problems of the genre, both for writers and for readers, inside an American cultural context. Readings may include works from North, Central, and South America when thematically appropriate.

**ENG 372: Criticism and Culture**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208, and junior standing or permission of instructor; *required* of English and Creative Writing majors.) (offered alternate years)

This course studies contemporary critical trends as they apply to literature, film, fashion or other cultural patterns, and considers specifically the numerous trends that have coalesced into "Cultural Criticism."

**ENG 376: Contemporary Literature**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: LBA 108/208 and one 3 hour 200-level ENG course, junior standing or permission of instructor)

This course identifies and examines emerging trends in recent literature.

**ENG 380: Topics in Writing, Language and Literatures**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208 and permission of instructor)

Topics courses are devoted to special subjects that may not be covered in depth in other courses.

**ENG 383: Major Author**

(3 hrs.)

(May be repeated for credit with a different topic up to 6 semester hours)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208 and one 3 hour 200-level ENG course, junior standing or permission of instructor)

An intensive introduction to the range and depth of one or more writers such as George Eliot, Emily Dickinson, Toni Morrison, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Gertrude Stein and her circle, Margaret Atwood, Adrienne Rich or Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes.

**ENG 385: Digital Media and Publishing**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208, junior standing or permission of instructor)

Students will develop textual editing and publishing skills and gain familiarity with various forms of publishing as it relates to their future career goals and specific interests.

**ENG 387: Writing Through Performance: Literature and Auto/biography**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: ENG 210 or ENG 212; Junior standing; or permission of the instructor)

This course focuses on the writing of scripted adaptations for the stage through performance. Adaptations will include folklore, literature, poetry, autobiography, and biography. Students will develop skills in critical reading, writing, listening, speaking and analysis of performance as they study the communicative power of oral and literary texts.

**ENG 396: *Harbinger* Editing Internships**

(1 hr. fall term; 3 hrs. spring term)

(May be repeated up to 7 semester hrs.)

(Prerequisite: LBA 108/208 and 1 course in Creative Writing and successful application)

Students learn to edit, design, produce and promote *Harbinger*, a magazine that includes the creative accomplishments of Stephens' artists, designers and writers. This course includes a study of the "little magazine" as a genre.

**ENG 490: Senior Essay or Project**

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: permission of department chair)

The BA student designs a major literary research project and the BFA student designs a creative writing project in consultation with an evaluation committee, workshops and completes the project, defends it during an oral examination conducted by the committee, gives a solo reading or presentation, participates in capstone discussions of her life after graduation, and completes the program Assessment Portfolio. Students aspiring to produce a chapbook in addition to a creative writing project must register for ENG 490 in the fall semester.

**Independent Study**

Independent studies (special studies, tutorials, readings and projects) may be proposed by students who need to meet a degree requirement. Information about independent study may be obtained in the Department of English/Creative Writing or in the Office of the Registrar.