

Creative Writing

Faculty Adviser: Janice Knight, G-B 308, 702-8024

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<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/depts/english/creative-writing/index.shtml>

Creative writing opportunities at Chicago encourage students to maintain their commitment to an academic discipline while also pursuing course work in creative writing. Unlike students in professionally oriented writing programs, undergraduates pursuing creative writing at Chicago do not concentrate only on their own writing, but instead develop these skills in the context of humanistic and academic study more generally. Based on their level of preparation, students may take beginning and/or advanced workshops in fiction, playwriting, and poetry, as well as specialized courses that will vary from year to year on such topics as travel writing, the memoir, arts reviews, longer fiction, the essay, screen-writing, and writing for the Web. In addition, writers will occasionally visit campus, offering students the chance to work with poets, novelists, playwrights, performance artists, or journalists of established reputation.

Our writing courses are designed to provide avenues that enable students to express themselves in ways that are irreducible to the five-page argument, the research paper, or the lab report, and in so doing to move beyond being only critical consumers of cultural material. The goals of the writer are to develop craft and style, understand issues of voice, gauge and meet an audience, and learn to work productively from criticism. Such activities allow for a uniquely focused style of discursive work, one that fosters different skills than those required in traditional academic courses. These skills give writing students not just a vehicle for self-expression, but also new ways to engage educated publics and to imagine their own academic prose.

Students can pursue their creative writing interests within the formal requirements of the two interdisciplinary concentrations below; in other concentrations, with approval to count writing courses toward requirements; or among the eight to eighteen electives available to students across the range of other concentrations.

(1) Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities. Students wishing to engage the dialogues between creative writing and other studies in the humanities, including artistic mediums (e.g., dance, film, theater, visual arts), may apply to explore writing opportunities through one of the options in this concentration.

(2) English Language and Literature. English Language and Literature concentrators may choose to produce a creative writing project to satisfy part of the requirement for honors. Prior to Winter Quarter of their fourth year, students must complete at least two creative writing courses in the genre of their own creative project. The senior project may take the form of a piece of creative writing, a text developed by a director in collaboration with actors and designers, an actor's journal in connection with a dramatic production, or a mixed media work in which writing is the central element.

Required Writing Samples

Admission to all courses is based on faculty review of samples of student work. Samples for fiction writing courses should be no longer than ten pages; poetry course submissions should be three to five short poems, or a few longer poems. A cover sheet must be attached that lists the course for which the student is requesting review; and name, student ID number, year, and e-mail address.

Samples (and cover sheet information) may either be sent via e-mail to *mparks@midway.uchicago.edu* or hand delivered to G-B 309 (to hand deliver theater course submissions, please go to RC 300).

Submission deadlines are Autumn Quarter, September 1, 2003; Winter Quarter, December 1, 2003; and Spring Quarter, March 1, 2004. More information on creative writing courses and opportunities is available at <http://humanities.uchicago.edu/depts/english/creative-writing/index.shtm>.

Faculty and Visiting Lecturers, 2003-04

C. Allen, K. Cochran, C. Columbus, S. Fromberg Schaeffer, L. McEnerney, H. Sartin, M. Stielstra, L. Strike, T. Weiner

University Creative Writing Advisory Committee

H. Coleman, B. Cormack, W. Doniger, N. Field, J. Goldsby, E. Helsinger, J. Knight, L. McEnerney, L. Rothfield, L. Ruddick, M. Strand, W. Veeder, C. Vogler, R. von Hallberg

Courses

ENGL 11400/31400. Writing Argument. (=ISHU 25300) *K. Cochran. Autumn.*

ENGL 11401/31401. Writing Law. (=ISHU 21401) *K. Cochran. Spring.*

ENGL 11402/31402. Writing for the Web. (=ISHU 21402) *Spring.*

ENGL 11503/31503. Translation and Adaptation. (=ISHU 26950) *C. Columbus. Winter.*

ENGL 11504/31504. Solo Performance. (=ISHU 26100) *Autumn.*

ENGL 11505/31505. Dramaturgy. (=ISHU 26100) *D. Levin. Winter.*

ENGL 11600/31601. Writing Arts Reviews. (=ISHU 27100) *H. Sartin. Autumn.*

ENGL 11602/31602. Travel Writing. (=ISHU 27100) *H. Sartin. Spring.*

ENGL 12202/32202. Personal Narrative. (=ISHU 22202) *Spring.*

ENGL 12203/32203. Writing/Reflections. (=ISHU 22203) *M. Stielstra. Spring.*

ENGL 12204/32204. Writing Creative Nonfiction. (=ISHU 25500) *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit writing sample to G-B 309 by December 1, 2003. Winter.*

ENGL 12205/32205. Screenwriting. (=ISHU 27311) *PQ: Advanced standing. Spring. Not offered 2003-04; will be offered 2004-05.*

ENGL 12206/32206. The Format of the Essay. *M. Stielstra. Winter.*

ENGL 12400/32400. Beginning Fiction Writing. (=ISHU 22401) *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit one to two sample short stories to G-B 309 by September 1, 2003. S. Schaeffer. Autumn.*

ENGL 12501/32501. Writing Fiction I. (=ISHU 22501) *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit sample short story to G-B 309 by September 1, 2003. Autumn.*

ENGL 12502/32502. Writing Fiction II. (=ISHU 22502) *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit sample short story to G-B 309 by December 1, 2003. Winter.*

ENGL 12503/32503. Writing Fiction III. (=ISHU 22506) *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit sample short story to G-B 309 by March 1, 2004. Spring.*

ENGL 12700/32700. Writing Biography. (=ISHU 22300) *T. Weiner. Winter.*

ENGL 12905/32905. Beginning Poetry Writing. (=ISHU 22905) *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit three to five sample poems to G-B 309 by September 1, 2003. Autumn.*

ENGL 13000/33000. The Little Red Schoolhouse (Academic and Professional Writing). *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing. P/F grading optional for English Language and Literature nonconcentrators. Materials fee \$20. L. McEnerney, K. Cochran, T. Weiner. Winter, Spring.*

ENGL 13200/33200. Beginning Poetry Writing. (=ISHU 22905) *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit three to five sample poems to G-B 309 by December 1, 2003. Winter.*

ENGL 13203/33203. Writing Poetry. (=ISHU 23202/33202) *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit three to five sample poems to G-B 309 by March 1, 2004. Spring.*

ENGL 13600-13601/43600-43601. Playwriting I, II. (=ISHU 26600) *PQ: Consent of instructor. C. Allen, Autumn; L. Strike, Spring.*

ENGL 13700/33700. Advanced Playwriting. (=ISHU 26700) *PQ: ENGL 13600 and consent of instructor. C. Allen. Winter.*

ENGL 14303/34303. Advanced Poetry Writing. *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit three to five sample poems to G-B 309 by September 1, 2003. M. Sloan. Autumn.*

ENGL 14304/34304. Advanced Poetry Writing. *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit three to five sample poems to G-B 309 by December 1, 2003. Winter.*

ENGL 14400/34400. Advanced Fiction Writing. *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit writing sample to G-B 309 by September 1, 2003. S. Schaeffer. Autumn.*

ENGL 14405/34405. Advanced Fiction Writing. *PQ: Consent of instructor; submit writing sample to G-B 309 by December 1, 2003. Winter.*