

# CREATIVE WRITING AND LITERATURE

*Do you want to write fiction, poetry, or creative nonfiction in private tutorial classes with faculty mentors? Do you want to study writing and literature in small seminars?*

Creative Writing and Literature Majors write fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction under the close guidance of faculty mentors, and may workshop their writing with other student writers in small writing seminars. Majors also study the art of writing through the study of literature. Majors specialize in fiction, poetry, or nonfiction early in their studies.

## WRITING REQUIREMENT

Students complete a **minimum of four** creative writing courses, at least three of which must be at the 300 level or above and at least three of which must be taken in the RC. A usual track is an introductory course (Narration, Writing Poetry, Creative Adaptation) and **three** upper-level courses. Students may count one non-RC creative writing course towards the writing requirement.

### Residential College Introductory Creative Writing courses:

#### **RCHUMS 220: Narration: Intro to Fiction Writing**

Narration is an introductory short fiction writing workshop. Two 8 to 20 page short stories are due at regular intervals during the term. Students read and critique one another's work in a class workshop.

#### **RCHUMS 221: Writing Poetry**

Students write and submit poetry each week. These works are appraised and critiqued by class members and in private sessions with the instructor. Contemporary poetry is read and discussed.

### Residential College Upper-level Creative Writing courses:

#### **RCHUMS 320: Advanced Narration**

This course is designed for writers of longer fiction who can benefit from instruction and peer feedback. Two 15 to 20 page short stories are due at regular intervals during the term.

#### **RCHUMS 321: Advanced Poetry Writing**

This is an advanced poetry writing workshop. Students read their poems in class and actively participate in the critical evaluation of other students' work. A finished manuscript of 25-30 pages is a course requirement.

#### **RCHUMS 325, 326, 425, 426: Creative Writing Tutorials**

Creative writing tutorials provide an opportunity for students to receive constructive criticism on their creative writing efforts. Tutorial students meet privately every week

with an instructor who specializes in their chosen genre. Reading will be assigned on an individual basis.

### **RCCORE 334: Digital Storytelling**

We use digital communication and storytelling every day (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blogs, texts, email) but may not think these technologies can be used to create fictional stories, poems, creative non-fiction, and multi-media art. Learn to utilize these and other digital technologies to produce works of electronic fiction.

### **RCHUMS 334: Memoir: Writing from Within**

Positive or negative, memoir can take readers beyond the purely personal to a greater understanding of place, time, events, and themselves. For the writer, a memoir not only relates and confronts personal stories, but is a way to illuminate a part of the world. In this class we'll practice how to communicate "truth" in capturing a life, and study how some of the best writers tackle hard topics.

### **RCCORE 334: Detroit Artist as Activist**

This course will explore the role the arts have played in resisting systemic inequalities, fighting injustice, and giving voice to those on the margins. We will consider both the strengths and limitations of art, particularly creative writing, as a force for social change as well as art's effectiveness in engaging communities. Further, we will use the study and practice of creative writing to deepen our understandings of and relationships to the city of Detroit.

### **RCCORE 334: Workshop with Incarcerated Poets and Artists: The Art of Place**

If you have an interest in teaching creative writing, working with arts non-profits, working with kids, or engaging in social justice work, this class is for you. This course will explore Creative Writing Pedagogy in a practical and hands-on way; we'll develop writing prompts, experiments and procedures to help incarcerated writers, age 13-16, to create and revise new poems, culminating in a final poetry chapbook. We'll also meet once a week to discuss creative writing pedagogy and how to create exercises and syllabi.

## **LITERATURE REQUIREMENT**

**Students complete five literature courses**, at the 300-level or above, that model their chosen genre (fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction). One literature course must focus on either ancient literature or medieval literature (pre-1600).

Students are encouraged to take literature and theory courses in the RC Arts and Ideas Major. Literature courses may be taken in the [Department of English](#) or the [Comparative Literature Program](#). Students majoring in a second language may count one upper-level literature course in that language, or one upper-level literature course completed during a full semester studying abroad in a non-English speaking country. Upper-level literature courses, taken abroad, in English-speaking countries also may be counted. All literature courses counted toward the Creative Writing and Literature Major must be at least three (3) credits.