Creative Writing (Iowa Writers' Workshop)

Director
• Lan Samantha Chang

Graduate degree: M.F.A. in English

Faculty: https://writersworkshop.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://writersworkshop.uiowa.edu/

The Creative Writing Program (Iowa Writers’ Workshop) is a world-renowned graduate program for fiction writers and poets. It was the first creative writing program in the United States to offer a degree, and it became a model for many contemporary writing programs. In addition to its Master of Fine Arts program, it also offers writing courses for undergraduates.

The Iowa Writers’ Workshop, founded in 1936, has been home to thousands of remarkable writers, including Flannery O’Connor, Raymond Carver, Rita Dove, John Irving, James Alan McPherson, Philip Levine, Jane Smiley, Michael Cunningham, Sandra Cisneros, Denis Johnson, Jorie Graham, Ann Patchett, D.A. Powell, Nathan Englander, Yiyun Li, Eleanor Catton, Angloa Flournoy, Garth Greenwell, and Yaa Gyasi. The program’s faculty and alumni include winners of virtually every major literary award, including seventeen winners of the Pulitzer Prize (most recently Paul Harding in 2010), six recent U.S. Poets Laureate, and numerous winners of the National Book Award, MacArthur Foundation Fellowships, and other major honors. In 2003, the Iowa Writers’ Workshop received a National Humanities Medal from the National Endowment for the Humanities—the first awarded to a university and only the second given to an institution rather than an individual.

The Creative Writing Program also offers courses for students from other programs; summer courses are open to undergraduate and graduate students.

To learn more about the Creative Writing Program’s history and faculty, visit the Iowa Writers’ Workshop website.

Programs

Graduate Program of Study

Major
• Master of Fine Arts in English

Courses

Creative Writing Courses

The Creative Writing Program offers courses for undergraduates as well as graduate students. Enrollment in some graduate-level courses requires admission to the M.F.A. program. See “Courses” in the Department of English section of the Catalog for course descriptions and prerequisites to enrollment.

CW:1800 Creative Writing Studio Workshop 3
CW:2100 Creative Writing 3
CW:2870 Fiction Writing 3
CW:2875 Poetry Writing 3
CW:3003 Writing and Reading Science Fiction 3
CW:3005 Professional and Creative Business Communication 3
CW:3107 Creative Writing for the Health Professions 3
CW:3210 Creative Writing and the Natural World 3
CW:3215 Creative Writing and Popular Culture 3
CW:3217 Writing and Reading Young Adult Fiction 3
CW:3218 Creative Writing for New Media 3
CW:3870 Advanced Fiction Writing 3
CW:3875 Advanced Poetry Writing 3
CW:4745 The Sentence: Strategies for Writing 3
CW:4750 Writing and Activism 3
CW:4751 Creative Writing for the Musician 3
CW:4760 The Art of Revision: Rewriting Prose for Clarity and Impact 3
CW:4870 Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Fiction arr.
CW:4875 Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Poetry arr.
CW:4894 Undergraduate Project in Creative Writing arr.
CW:4897 Novel Writing 3
CW:5870 Graduate Fiction Writing 3
CW:5875 Graduate Poetry Writing 3
CW:7810 Form of Fiction 3
CW:7820 Form of Poetry 3
CW:7830 Seminar: Problems in Modern Fiction arr.
CW:7870 Fiction Workshop arr.
CW:7875 Poetry Workshop arr.
CW:7890 Graduate Project in Creative Writing arr.