Creative Writing—Writers' Workshop Courses (English) (CW)

CW Courses

This is a list of courses with the subject code CW. For more information, see Creative Writing (Iowa Writers' Workshop) and English (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) in the catalog.

CW:1200 Creative Writing for Non-Native English Speakers 3 s.h.
Designed to help non-native English speakers who would like to learn more about creative writing; guided readings and creative writing exercises in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, with special emphasis on the interests of writers from diverse backgrounds; creative writing as a means of self-expression, while improving writing and speaking skills in a friendly, supportive environment.

CW:1800 Creative Writing Studio Workshop 3 s.h.
Experience reading and writing fiction, poetry, and personal narrative in a workshop setting; study of published work and critical discussion from a writer's standpoint; critique of class members' work. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

CW:2100 Creative Writing 3 s.h.
Guidance in the process of writing fiction and poetry; writing as exploration; development of students' critical skills as readers; application of new knowledge and skills to students' own writing. English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Nonfiction and Creative Writing. GE: Engineering Be Creative.

CW:2600 Special Topics Workshop 3 s.h.
Writing workshops on special topics (e.g., writing weird tales, world building, writing place); students dive into the intricacies of craft in context of a particular topic, practice a particular set of skills, and develop new creative work.

CW:2870 Fiction Writing 3 s.h.
Analysis of works of accomplished fiction writers; critique of class members' short stories, in writing and in class; discussion of how class members use language, characterization, point of view, other elements of fiction in their work. English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Nonfiction and Creative Writing. GE: Engineering Be Creative.

CW:2875 Poetry Writing 3 s.h.
Careful writing of poems, reading of poetry by class members as well as established poets; supportive workshop context. English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Nonfiction and Creative Writing. GE: Engineering Be Creative.

CW:3000 Writing and Reading Romance Fiction 3 s.h.
How constraints and parameters in which romance fiction is created are a useful lens through which to explore the layers of craft and technique that underlie all great creative writing; opportunity to hone understanding of genre; exploration of specific craft techniques; development of a broader understanding of the fiction landscape.

CW:3002 Writing and Reading Young Adult Fiction 0.3 s.h.
Constraints and parameters in which young adult fiction is created and a useful lens through which to explore the layers of craft and technique that underlie all great creative writing; opportunity for students to hone their understanding of genre, explore specific craft techniques, and develop a broader understanding of the fiction landscape.

CW:3003 Writing and Reading Science Fiction 3 s.h.
Science fiction literature as an ongoing conversation about the possible; exploration of world boundaries we have by imagining worlds that we don't (yet); alien encounters that consider ways we react to beings we see as unlike ourselves; alternate histories to illuminate what might have been; transhumanist fiction to explore what we may become; issues of composition and craft that underlie all effective fiction; students write and revise works of science fiction and engage in constructive discussion of each other's work. GE: Engineering Be Creative.

CW:3004 Writing and Reading Fantasy Fiction 3 s.h.
Exploration of rules and boundaries of fantasy writing; interrogation of strategies and approaches that make writing fantasy distinct from other genres of fiction.

CW:3005 Professional and Creative Business Communication 3 s.h.
Solid foundation for creative and professional communication in today's modern work world; exploration of techniques, strategies, and craft of writing résumés, letters of interest, email and its related etiquette, and organization of ideas into presentable form; semester-long creative project that builds a bridge between office and the world using modern technology and social media; readings and discussions of literature to better understand issues of ethics, leadership, conflict, moral judgment, decision-making, and human nature; how to navigate and succeed in business or any professional field. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as INTD:3005, WRIT:3005.

CW:3105 Writing from Life 3 s.h.
Introduction to literary art of journal writing through close readings of celebrated writers' journals, fiction related to journaling, and a series of journaling exercises; students build skills in communication, observation, voice, and literary expression.

CW:3107 Creative Writing for the Health Professions 3 s.h.
GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as INTD:3107.

CW:3215 Creative Writing and Popular Culture 3 s.h.
Creative writing through the lens of popular culture; topics include television, film writing, adaptations, commercials, advertising, magazines, newspapers, comic books, song lyrics, billboards, and backs of cereal boxes. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as INTD:3300.

CW:3218 Creative Writing for New Media 3 s.h.
Prepares creative writers for evolving marketplace of electronic text and media; experience writing in varied media (e.g., internet, e-books, video games, mobile devices, emergent social narratives). GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as INTD:3200.

CW:3400 Working Writers in Conversation 3 s.h.
Exposure to work of established contemporary writers who plan to visit the University of Iowa campus; students engage with each writer directly through class visits and reading attendance.
CW:3870 Advanced Fiction Writing 3 s.h.
Analysis of accomplished fiction writers' work; critique of class members' short stories, in writing and in class; discussion of how class members use language, characterization, point of view, other elements of fiction in their work. English majors may apply this course to the following area or period requirement. AREA: Nonfiction and Creative Writing. Prerequisites: CW:2870.

CW:3875 Advanced Poetry Writing 3 s.h.
Writing poems, reading poetry by class members and established poets; workshop context. English majors may apply this course to the following area or period requirement. AREA: Nonfiction and Creative Writing. Prerequisites: CW:2875.

CW:4745 The Sentence: Strategies for Writing 3 s.h.
Writing dynamic, cogent, and grammatically correct sentences; effectively communicating ideas; writing with clarity and confidence; review of grammar and various types of sentences; building complexity by adding adverbial, subordinate, and connective clauses to simple sentences; how rhythm, syntax, and word order expand the meaning of a sentence; application and appreciation. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as WRIT:4745.

CW:4751 Creative Writing for the Musician 3 s.h.
Better writing by focused appreciation of classical and popular music; musical forms and storytelling; music as a source of inspiration, performance of free-form writing exercises set to different soundtracks; what music can teach about language; scansion; methods for applying musical techniques in word form; how punctuation and grammar create rhythm; tone and diction used to create and modify dynamics of prose; multimedia project incorporating written, visual, and audio storytelling techniques. GE: Engineering Be Creative.

CW:4760 The Art of Revision: Rewriting Prose for Clarity and Impact 3 s.h.
Writing and rewriting of short stories and essays; specific choices to help writing reach its full potential; examination of first drafts and making strategic or radical decisions on what needs to happen in subsequent drafts in order for writing to better match original intentions; students gain insight from peers on where first drafts are succeeding or falling short, and write second and third drafts of short stories and personal narratives; structural and aesthetic choices. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as WRIT:4760.

CW:4870 Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Fiction arr.
English majors may apply this course to the following area or period requirement. AREA: Nonfiction and Creative Writing.

CW:4875 Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Poetry arr.
English majors may apply this course to the following area or period requirement. AREA: Nonfiction and Creative Writing.

CW:4885 Undergraduate Writers' Seminar arr.
Exploration of literature to develop substance and craft; craft sessions designed around topic chosen by instructor; modeled after Iowa Writers' Workshop graduate reading seminars. Prerequisites: ENGL:2020.

CW:4894 Undergraduate Project in Creative Writing arr.
English majors may apply this course to the following area or period requirement. AREA: Nonfiction and Creative Writing.

CW:4897 Novel Writing 3 s.h.
Introduction to the process of writing a novel through focused lessons on character, perspective, plot, scene, and dialogue; organizing a longer work; creating notes and sections of a novel with progression towards completing a draft. Requirements: creative writing or fiction writing course.

CW:7810 Form of Fiction 3 s.h.

CW:7820 Form of Poetry 3 s.h.

CW:7830 Seminar: Problems in Modern Fiction arr.


CW:7870 Fiction Workshop arr.

CW:7875 Poetry Workshop arr.

CW:7878 Special Topics Seminar 3 s.h.
Seminar topics vary.

CW:7880 Teaching Assistant Pedagogy Colloquium 1-2 s.h.
Training and support for graduate students in the Creative Writing Program. Corequisites: CW:7870 or CW:7875. Requirements: enrollment in creative writing graduate program.

CW:7890 Graduate Project in Creative Writing arr.

CW:7895 MFA Thesis arr.