Creative Writing (Iowa Writers' Workshop)

Director

Samantha Chang

Graduate degree: MFA in English

Faculty: https://writersworkshop.uiowa.edu/faculty

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

The Creative Writing Program (Iowa Writers' Workshop) is a world-renowned graduate program for fiction writers and poets. Founded in 1936, 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 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, Marilynne Robinson, Denis Johnson, Mark Levine, Jorie Graham, Charles D'Ambrosio, Ann Patchett, Lan Samantha Chang, Margot Livesey, D.A. Powell, Nathan Englander, Yiyun Li, Elizabeth Willis, Eleanor Catton, Angela Flournoy, Tracie Morris, Garth Greenwell, Jamel Brinkley, Margaret Ross, and Yaa Gyasi. The program's faculty and alumni include winners of virtually every major literary award, including thirty winners of the Pulitzer Prize, eight 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 offers courses for students from other programs of study; 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

- Master of Fine Arts in English

Courses

Creative Writing—Writers' Workshop Courses

The Creative Writing Program offers courses for undergraduates as well as graduate students. Enrollment in some graduate-level courses requires admission to the MFA program. For more information about the Creative Writing undergraduate major, see the Department of English's website.

Course #	Title	Hours
CW:1800	Creative Writing Studio Workshop	3
CW:2100	Creative Writing: Foundations for Nonmajors	3
CW:2600	Creative Writing: Special Topics Workshop	3
CW:2870	Fiction Writing	3
CW:2875	Poetry Writing	3
CW:3002	Writing and Reading Young Adult Fiction	0,3
CW:3003	Writing and Reading Science Fiction	3
CW:3004	Writing and Reading Fantasy Fiction	3
CW:3105	Writing From Life	3
CW:3107	Creative Writing for the Health Professions	3
CW:3215	Creative Writing and Popular Culture	3
CW:3218	Creative Writing for New Media	3
CW:3400	Working Writers in Conversation	3
CW:3870	Advanced Fiction Writing	3
CW:3875	Advanced Poetry Writing	3
CW:4745	The Sentence: Strategies for Writing	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:4885	Undergraduate Writers' Seminar	arr.
CW:4894	Undergraduate Project in Creative Writing	arr.
CW:4897	Novel Writing	3
CW:7810	Form of Fiction	3
CW:7820	Form of Poetry	3
CW:7830	Seminar: Problems in Modern Fiction	arr.
CW:7840	Seminar: Problems in Modern Poetry	arr.
CW:7870	Fiction Workshop	arr.
CW:7875	Poetry Workshop	arr.
CW:7878	Special Topics Seminar	3
CW:7880	Teaching Assistant Pedagogy Colloquium	1-2
CW:7890	Graduate Project in Creative Writing	arr.
CW:7895	MFA Thesis	arr.