

**CREATIVE WRITING CONSERVATORY \***

YEAR	FALL	SPRING
<b>Year 1</b>	<i>Core 1: Poetry</i> <i>Core 2: Short Story</i> <i>Author Study: The Moderns</i> <i>Topics in Lit: Time Travel</i>	<i>Core 3: Creative Non-Fiction</i> <i>Author Study: Kurt Vonnegut</i> <i>World Fiction: The Southern Gothic</i> <i>Genre Study: Flash Fiction</i>
<b>Year 2</b>	<i>Core 4: Screenwriting</i> <i>Author Study: Shakespeare</i> <i>Topics in Lit: Magical Realism</i> Book Club	<i>Genre Study: TV Writing</i> <i>Genre Study: Horror Writing</i> <i>Author Study: Aimee Bender</i> <i>Advanced: Short Story</i>
<b>Year 3</b>	<i>Genre Study: Performance Poetry</i> <i>Industry Prep: Professional Writing</i> <i>Advanced: Novel</i> <i>Genre Study: Fantasy</i>	Playwriting <i>Genre Study: TV Writing</i> <i>Industry Prep: Business of the Business</i> Book Club
<b>Year 4</b>	<i>Industry Prep: Inkblot</i> <i>Industry Prep: Community Arts Outreach</i> Origins and Sources of Fiction <i>World Fiction: Irish Literature</i>	<i>Industry Prep: Inkblot</i> <i>Industry Prep: Community Arts Outreach</i> <i>Advanced: Screenwriting</i> <i>Advanced: Playwriting</i>

\* The above is a sample curriculum path. The nature of Creative Writing's collegiate-based model of rotating classes means several different courses qualify to fulfill learning requirements, so every student's path will be individualized. This allows students to guide and frame their own course of study and complete conservatory requirements in a flexible order. Classes can be repeated for credit.

**Course Requirement Schedule:**

- By the end of their Freshman Year students will have taken at least two **Core Classes**
- By the end of their Sophomore Year students will have completed all four **Core Classes**, and at least one **Author Study** or **World Fiction Class**
- By the end of their Junior Year students will have completed all four **Core Classes**, and at least one **Author Study Class**, one **World Fiction Class**, one additional **Genre Class**, and one **Advanced Level Class**.
- By the end of their Senior Year students will have completed all four **Core Classes**, and at least one **Author Study Class**, one **World Fiction Class**, two additional **Genre Classes**, two **Advanced Level Classes**, and one **Industry Prep Class**.

## CREATIVE WRITING CONSERVATORY

### ACTING FOR WRITERS

This elective course introduces student writers to the acting process. Students will learn and apply fundamental acting vocabulary and processes as they perform original and classic texts. Students will participate in the actor's process to better understand the performer's perspective.

### ADVANCED CREATIVE NON-FICTION

This advanced level writing class focuses on understanding and applying the nuances of specific sub-genres of Creative Non-Fiction. Topics could include memoir, podcasting, or "TED Talks." Students will investigate the conventions and motifs of that sub-genre through the exploration of model texts. Students will create original works in the course mode. Development of the writing process and an emphasis on revision are also developed.

### ADVANCED PLAYWRITING

This advanced level course furthers student understanding of playwriting by exploring a specific genre, element, or aspect of playwriting. Example class topics include Theatre of the Absurd, the 10-Minute Play, and Two-Handers. Students will study examples of the form and model them for their own original writing development.

### ADVANCED POETRY

This advanced level writing class furthers student understanding of poetry by exploring a specific aspect(s) of the form. Students will analyze advanced examples of poetry that provide context for various poetic elements, such as connotation, form, and meter. Students will apply concepts from these models in the creation of their own original writing. Development of the writing process and an emphasis on revision are also developed.

### ADVANCED SCREENWRITING

This advanced level writing class focuses on understanding and applying the nuances of a specific aspect of screenwriting. Students will practice advanced concepts of storytelling, including subtext, tone, and style, and learn to think critically about existing films in their historical and artistic context. Students will apply these concepts to the original works created in class. Development of the writing process and an emphasis on revision are also developed.

### ADVANCED SHORT STORY

This advanced level writing class furthers student understanding of short fiction by exploring a specific aspect(s) of the form. Students will analyze advanced examples of the elements of fiction such as character, perspective, or stylized language. Students will apply concepts from these models in the creation of their own original works. Development of the writing process and an emphasis on revision are also developed.

### AUTHOR STUDY

This literature and writing class focuses on broadening student exposure to the work of one specific author or a few authors who share a common style or tone. Examples include Jane Austen, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and The Moderns. Students will learn the influences of that author(s) and the historical context of their work. Students will be expected to respond critically to the texts being studied. Students will have a chance to learn from and incorporate the style of the author(s) in their own creative work.

### BOOK CLUB

This reading class is appropriate for all levels. Students will organize into reading groups and complete a predetermined number of texts per semester. Groups will analyze and discuss each text upon completion. Students self-select texts to restore the natural passion for reading that can diminish over long term analysis.

### BUSINESS OF THE BUSINESS

This industry preparation class introduces a different writing professional to students each meeting. Students will be exposed to a variety of professions associated with writing such as agents, editors, and advertisers, and writers from across the spectrum such as novelists, comic book writers, screenwriters, and poets. Students will

**CORE CREATIVE NON-FICTION**

This introductory writing class focuses on the development of non-fiction narrative and engaging prose technique. Students will be exposed to a variety of modes, master examples, and contemporary pieces that illustrate skilful creative non-fiction writing. Students will draft several of their own original works, integrating the motifs and styles inherent in those forms. Students will also be introduced to critical thinking and workshoping skills.

**CORE SCREENWRITING**

This introductory writing class focuses on understanding the basic format, structure, and vocabulary associated with screenwriting. Students will complete an outline for a feature length screenplay demonstrating knowledge of three act structure, and they will write 30 pages of correctly formatted screenplay. Students will learn fundamental story development. Students will also be introduced to critical thinking and workshoping skills.

**CORE POETRY**

This introductory writing class focuses on understanding the basic format, structure, and vocabulary associated with writing poetry. Students will be exposed to a variety of modes, master examples, and contemporary pieces that illustrate skilful poetry writing. Students will learn and apply the fundamental elements of poetry writing, including connotation, form, and meter. Students will draft several of their own original poems and supplement writing projects. Students will also be introduced to critical thinking and workshoping skills.

**CORE SHORT STORY**

This introductory writing class focuses on understanding the basic format, structure, and vocabulary associated with writing short fiction. Students will be exposed to a variety of modes, master examples and contemporary pieces that illustrate skilful short fiction writing. Students will learn and apply the fundamental elements of short story writing, including plot structure, character development, and setting. Students will draft several of their own original short stories and supplement writing projects. Students will also be introduced to critical thinking and workshoping skills.

**GENRE STUDY**

This writing class is appropriate for all levels and focuses on one specific genre of writing. Topic genres could include, but are not limited to, Comedy, Experimental, Fantasy, Science Fiction, or Magical Realism. Students will learn the historical context of that genre, be exposed to iconic texts of the genre, and be able to practice writing in the different styles of that genre.

**INKBLOT**

This industry preparation class produces the annual creative writing literary and art journal. Students act as editors in a professionally-modelled environment as they solicit, review, and vote on submitted art and writing. At least one student acts as editor-in-chief to guide staff and establish annual editorial policy. At least one student electronically compiles the magazine in preparation of professional printing. In addition, students act as liaisons to the conservatory, attending and facilitating at outreach events. Enrollment in this course requires instructor approval.

**NOVEL**

This advanced level writing class introduces students to the concepts of novel writing. Students will analyze examples of successful novels such as pacing, plotting, and structure. Students will apply these concepts in the drafting of their own original novel. Given the size and time commitment for a novel, completion is not mandated to pass this course. Development of the writing process and an emphasis on revision are also developed.

**PLAYWRITING**

This introductory writing class focuses on understanding the basic format, structure, and vocabulary associated with writing plays. Students will be exposed to a variety of modes, master examples, and contemporary pieces that illustrate skilful playwriting. Students will learn and apply the fundamental elements of playwriting, developing a section(s) of their own original play(s) by semester end. Students will also be introduced to critical thinking and workshoping skills.

**SUBMISSIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

This industry preparation class prepares students for the publication of their individual pieces. Writing is workshopped and polished, then students are guided through the process of submitting them for production or publication. Students learn industry standards such as formatting and query letters. They will also research markets, magazines, and audiences. Students will learn about the business of being a creative writer and prepare themselves to enter the professional world.

**TOPICS IN LITERATURE**

This is a literature and writing class appropriate for all levels that introduces students to a specific category, category, motif or other aspect of literature. Topics could include Ecology, Heroes/Villains, and Utopia/Dystopia. Students will read various examples that are representative of the topic. Students will learn and apply aspects of the topic in their own writing.

**WORLD THEATRE**

This literature and writing class is appropriate for all levels and introduces students to dramatic texts from a select area of the globe. Example topics of study include Irish Drama, Norse Mythology, and the Southern Gothic. Students will read various examples that are representative of that area. Surveys can be broad in spectrum, i.e. several centuries, or more focused, i.e. 18th century to the present. Students will learn and apply regional literary conventions motifs and elements specific to that area in their own writing.

**WORLD FICTION**

This literature and writing class is appropriate for all levels and introduces students to literature from a select area of the globe. Example topics of study include Irish Literature, Norse Mythology, and the Southern Gothic. Students will read various examples that are representative of that area. Surveys can be broad in spectrum, i.e. several centuries, or more focused, i.e. 18th century to the present. Students will learn and apply regional literary conventions motifs and elements specific to that area in their own writing.