Creative Writing, M.F.A.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS (http://www.cla.temple.edu)

About the Program

The Graduate Creative Writing Program is intended to provide fiction writers and poets with an opportunity to develop their craft and extend the horizon of their thinking about the genre in which they work. Graduate courses in creative writing topics and literature are the core of the program.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 2 years

Campus Location: Main

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: Students wishing to pursue this degree part-time are advised to contact the Program Director to discuss this option. It is not possible to complete this degree without taking classes during the day.

Interdisciplinary Study: Students may take their elective course in a department outside of the English Department with permission of the Program Director.

Study Abroad: Creative Writing students may apply to attend a 6-credit seminar in Art and Culture offered in Rome during the Summer. The seminar entails an intensive program of classwork, field trips, and guest lectures.

Areas of Specialization: The program provides a combination of small, intensive workshops in poetry and fiction, in addition to one-on-one tutorials and special topics courses in Creative Writing. Temple has an excellent faculty of writers in both genres, representing a wide range of aesthetics. To learn more about the faculty, see www.cla.temple.edu/english/creativewriting/faculty/.

Job Prospects: Graduates have extended their education and earned Ph.D.'s in English and Creative Writing and are now professors. Others have gone on to become librarians, editors in the field of publishing, arts administrators, journalists, web writers, grant writers, primary and secondary school teachers, and more. Books written by our graduates have been published by trade and small presses and cover all genres. These works have won grants, prizes, and residencies.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Non-matriculated students are very rarely permitted to take courses within the degree program.

Financing Opportunities: Students are encouraged to apply for a teaching assistantship, which includes a tuition waiver and a stipend for the nine months of the academic year. Conditions of the award are determined by the graduate student union contract with Temple University and currently require recipients to do a combination of teaching and other assignments. Assistantship applications are submitted along with admissions applications by December 15.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:

Fall: February 15

Applications are processed at the deadline. All materials, including GRE and TOEFL scores, must be received by the application deadline.

Visit http://www.cla.temple.edu/english/creativewriting/how-to-apply/ for details on the application procedures for the M.F.A. program in Creative Writing.

APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program.

Letters of Reference:

Number Required: 3

From Whom: Letters of recommendation should be obtained from professors or work supervisors who can comment on your writing, your tenacity, your intellectual scope, and the nature of your projects to date.

Coursework Required for Admission Consideration: It is not necessary for the applicant to have followed an undergraduate Creative Writing major; however, applicants should have a strong background in literary study and critical essay writing. Students in our program take both creative writing courses and graduate-level literature seminars.

Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A baccalaureate degree is required, although it need not be in Creative Writing. An applicant must, however, display evidence of talent as a fiction writer or poet.

Statement of Goals: In two to four pages, identify the influences and models you have used in your thinking about creative work and the projects you have already undertaken. If you have a particular interest in studying with a member of Temple's faculty, you should indicate this in this document.
Standardized Test Scores:
GRE: Recommended, but not required. Applicants who wish to be considered for a fellowship and/or teaching assistantship are strongly encouraged to include GRE scores with their admission materials.

TOEFL: 79 iBT or 550 PBT minimum

Resume: Current resume required.

Writing Sample: Applicants need to choose one genre in which to apply. For poetry submissions, a minimum of 10 pages is required. For fiction, a minimum of 20 pages is required. Your best work should be submitted.

Program Requirements

General Program Requirements:
Number of Didactic Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate: 33

Required Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 workshops</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Special Topics in Creative Writing course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 manuscript tutorial</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 craft course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 graduate literature courses</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 elective, which must be a Practicum in Composition Theory for those who hold a Teaching Assistantship</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits for the Master’s Project</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Credit Hours 33

Culminating Events:
Comprehensive Examination:
The comprehensive examination is intended to give students an opportunity to write about the historical and formal context of the literary genre in which they practice. Students are given an official reading list for their chosen genre at the beginning of the program. For the exam, they write a 10 to 15 page essay.

The exam is due between the third and fourth terms of the program on the Friday immediately preceding the day on which the Spring term begins. The paper should address issues of craft and aesthetics, but may include other points of reference. The essay should demonstrate a facility for critical discourse and indicate a breadth of knowledge of literary traditions.

Each exam is graded by two members of the Creative Writing Graduate Faculty. Exams are graded as either a High Pass, a Pass, a Low Pass, or Failure. Students pass the exam by writing cogent, well-argued, and stylistically polished arguments.

Master’s Project:
The master’s project is intended to be a work of fiction (at least 100 pages) or a work of poetry (at least 50 pages) that reflects an aesthetically and intellectually sophisticated example of the genre in which the student has worked over the course of the program. The project is due on the second Tuesday in April of the student’s fourth term.

The master’s project is graded exclusively by members of the Creative Writing Graduate Faculty. Two readers must agree that the project passes. If there is a conflict, the Director of the Graduate Creative Writing Program adjudicates the decision. A project defense is not required.

Contacts

Program Web Address:
http://www.cla.temple.edu/english/creativewriting/

Department Information:
Graduate Creative Writing Program
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Department Contacts:
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Chairperson:
Joyce A. Joyce
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Courses

ENG 5011. Early British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Topical readings that emphasize pre-Renaissance literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5012. Early American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Topical readings that emphasize American literature and criticism prior to 1800. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5014. 16th and 17th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Topical readings that emphasize Renaissance and/or Restoration literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5016. 18th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
This course surveys major literary figures and representative literary forms of the 18th Century. We will consider literature's relation to political, social, and cultural developments.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5018. 19th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Topical readings that emphasize Romantic and/or Victorian literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
ENG 5021. 19th Century American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Topical readings that emphasize nineteenth-century American literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5022. 20th and 21st Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Topical readings that emphasize British literature and criticism since about 1900. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5024. 20th and 21st Century American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Topical readings that emphasize American literature and criticism since about 1900. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5026. Anglophone Literatures. 3 Credit Hours.
Topical readings that emphasize writing in English from African, Australia, the Caribbean, India, and other places besides Britain and America. Readings may include material from any time period. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5028. Literatures in Translation. 3 Credit Hours.
Introductory readings that emphasize world literature and criticism from any time period. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5031. Translation Study. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to the theory and practice of translation.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5032. Book History. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to the theory and practice of book history.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5100. Topics - Literary Genres. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to the characteristics and problems of genre. Readings may emphasize poetry, non-fiction prose, the novel, drama, biography, autobiography, or other topics related to genre. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5200. Topics - Literature and Culture. 3 Credit Hours.
Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
ENG 5300. Topics - Cinema and Media Arts. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to cinema and media history and theory. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5301. Methods in Cinema and Media Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to ways of reading, writing on, and teaching film. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5500. Topics - Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.
Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5501. History of Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to critical schools from classical antiquity to the present.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5502. Current Directions in Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to recent and/or contemporary critical theory.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5600. Special Topics in Creative Writing. 3 Credit Hours.
A required course for MFA creative writing students. Special Topics in Creative Writing has both critical and creative writing components. The topic varies from year to year.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5601. Poetry Workshop. 3 Credit Hours.
Open only to students in the Creative Writing MFA program. Intensive discussion of student poetry and the work of established poets whose concerns are related to those of the students. Frequent individual conferences.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5602. Fiction Workshop. 3 Credit Hours.
Open only to students in the Creative Writing MFA program. Intensive discussion of student fiction and the work of established fiction writers whose concerns are related to those of the students. Frequent individual conferences.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5603. Craft in Creative Writing. 3 Credit Hours.
Focuses on craft elements of fiction or poetry. Content varies according to instructor and genre. Required course for M.F.A. candidates.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.
ENG 5701. Composition Research Methods. 3 Credit Hours.
An overview of current work in rhetoric and composition, and concentrated study in such areas as history of rhetoric, analyzing student texts, and evaluation.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5702. Historical Studies in Language and Rhetoric. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to historical study in language and/or rhetoric from classical antiquity to the present.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5710. Topics - Literacy and Language. 3 Credit Hours.
Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5720. Topics - Rhetoric and Composition. 3 Credit Hours.
Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8101. Advanced Study - Early English Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in pre-Renaissance literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8102. Advanced Study - Early American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in American literature and criticism prior to 1800. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8104. Advanced Study - 16th and 17th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in Renaissance and/or Restoration literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8106. Advanced Study - 18th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in Restoration and/or eighteenth-century British literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8108. Advanced Study - 19th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in Romantic and/or Victorian literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
ENG 8109. Advanced Study - 19th Century American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in nineteenth-century American literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8202. Advanced Study - 20th and 21st Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in British literature and criticism since about 1900. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8204. Advanced Study - 20th and 21st Century American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in American literature and criticism since about 1900. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8205. Advanced Study - Anglophone Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in writing in English from African, Australia, the Caribbean, India, and other places besides Britain and America. Readings may include material from any time period. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8301. Advanced Study in Translation. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in the theory and practice of translation.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8302. Advanced Study in Book History. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in the theory and practice of book history.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8304. Advanced Study in Genre. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in genre. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8402. Advanced Study in Cinema and Media. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in cinema and media history, criticism, and theory. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8501. Advanced Study in Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in critical theory. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
ENG 8704. Advanced Study in Literacy and Language. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in literacy and language. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8706. Advanced Study in Rhetoric and Composition. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in rhetoric and composition. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8900. Advanced Study in Literature and Culture. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced study of topics in literary and cultural studies. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8904. TU/Penn Exchange Poetics. 3 Credit Hours.
One student a year is permitted to register for one course in poetics at the University of Pennsylvania. Any student admitted to the graduate program in English can apply to participate in the exchange program.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ENG 8985. Teaching in Higher Education: Writing. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to the theory and practice of writing instruction.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ENG 9001. Introduction to Graduate Study. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to the methods and aims of literary research and varieties of critical theory. Required of doctoral students.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ENG 9082. Independent Study. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
Independent study. By arrangement.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9083. Master’s Manuscript Tutorial. 3 Credit Hours.
For Creative Writing majors. A tutorial in which the creative manuscript required for graduation is developed. Related readings. Weekly conferences. Two semesters are required.

**Field of Study Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Majors: English.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9089. Rome Seminar in Art and Culture. 6 Credit Hours.
For advanced undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students in fields such as literature, film studies, philosophy, art, and social theory. Graduate credit available. Summer session I.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.
ENG 9100. Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
Intensive reading and study of literary and cultural studies in a small class setting. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9200. Seminar in Cinema and Media Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
A seminar devoted to an exploration of a topic in media studies, such as a film or television genre, a national cinema, the work of a particular director or a critical and theoretical issue of current debate.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9300. Seminar in Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.
Intensive reading and study of critical theory in a small class setting. Content varies. Can be taken for more than one credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9400. Seminar in Rhetoric and Composition. 3 Credit Hours.
Intensive reading and study of rhetorical and/or composition in a small class setting. Content varies. Can be taken more than once for credit.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9994. Preliminary Examination Preparation. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
Advanced seminar for doctoral candidates.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9995. Master’s Project. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9996. Master’s Essay. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
For doctoral candidates who select the M.A. option.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9998. Pre-Dissertation Research. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
Registration required each semester after Preliminary Examinations while researching the dissertation proposal.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9999. Dissertation Research. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
Dissertation research seminar for doctoral candidates.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Student Attribute Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: Dissertation Writing Student.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.