

Creative Writing

The AAC's Creative Writing major gives students the opportunity to engage with language as a fundamental artistic medium, one which is not only relevant in multiple contexts, but is multiple contexts. Through poetry, short stories, creative non-fiction and hybrid/interdisciplinary forms, students explore and explode not only the narrative possibilities of the written and spoken word, but expressive, and formal ones as well. At the AAC, Creative Writers aren't writers in a visual art school; they are artists who use the written and spoken word as their primary artistic material. Reading becomes writing; writing becomes drawing, and words become a means for getting at the limits of language, which are the limits of being itself. Through active reading, critical writing, and research in relation to the artistic process, students hone their craft and learn to undermine preconceptions and rules in favor of generative unpredictable outcomes, declarations and gestures. The study of literature and a variety of traditional and experimental workshop approaches support students as they develop their own radical vision and voice.

Additionally, Creative Writing majors at the AAC are taught not only by writers, who are active in writing, editing, and publishing at the national level, but also by practicing contemporary visual artists, including painters, sculptors, designers, photographers, performance artists, etc. Upon graduation, students are prepared to creatively articulate, critically examine, and reinvent the world in their image via the spoken and written word. They may also continue their education in graduate school, as well as teach at the college level. As creative writers and readers, adept at using the fundamental conceptual framework we have for making meaning and making the world, they are prepared to do anything they put their minds to with depth and beauty and transformative strangeness.

Educational Objectives | Creative Writing Major

Introductory to Intermediate

- Develop a working knowledge of traditional and experimental modes in fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction
- Utilize research, reading, material generation and revision to develop the tools for a sustainable creative writing practice
- Describe, analyze and interpret the world and the work as they find it with generosity, intelligence, recklessness, carefulness, and awe
- Create work in a variety of received poetic and narrative forms
- Comprehend the history of literary innovation through literature courses which emphasize close reading and critical writing about diverse sources of poetry, fiction, and works of creative non-fiction, including hybrid forms
- Write in a variety of contexts with a variety of media from handwriting to word processing to manual typewriting and writing as a form of drawing
- Understand language as a material artistic medium and the fundamental conceptual framework by which we make sense of the self other people, experience, and the world
- Connect the word to image, the image to the word
- Embrace failure, risk and experimentation as necessary to their artistic growth
- Create short collections of work, such as linked short stories or essays or serial poems
- Identify key strategies and concepts that form the basis of their process in the development of their work
- Create original work that demonstrates their voice and vision

Intermediate to Advanced

- Read widely, wildly, and actively with an eye and ear toward establishing one's familiars
- Engage in writing as performance
- Understand and utilize advanced methods for producing original works of written art, such as collage, translation, erasure, collaboration, appropriation and other radical forms of deliberate linguistic mismanagement/engagement
- Accumulate knowledge and experience writing and reading imaginative, expressive, and descriptive poetry and prose related to their own literary ideas and interests
- Describe, analyze and interpret relevant historical and contemporary criticism and readings

- Articulate a personal voice and an understanding of their place in the contemporary literary conversation
- Give public readings, which include commentary on the work itself—the poetics and sources that inform it, as well as its historical and formal basis
- Send out work for publication
- Apply for a writing grant, fellowship, or residency
- Create and publish an online portfolio, blog, or website
- Create a body of original work—a collection of poetry, fiction or long form hybrid work—that demonstrates their voice and vision
- Write a statement of poetics/aesthetics, articulating the historical, formal and conceptual basis of their creative writing thesis
- Articulate problems /concerns and areas for improvement in their writing and propose/ execute new possibilities and procedures for addressing them
- Create self-driven work in an interdisciplinary and conceptually depthcharged atmosphere
- Work individually and collaboratively to gain essential experiences in the development of their work through collaborative teaching among a range of disciplines
- Demonstrate learning at the Art Academy by completing the creative writing capstone experience, involving the written senior thesis, creative writing thesis, and poetics statement

Foundations

FO101	Studio Arts 1: Core		6
FO102	Studio Arts 2: Creative Processes	3	
FO103	Studio Arts 3: Color		3

Two of the following

FO121	Analytical Drawing		3
FO122	Observational Drawing		3
FO123	Digital Drawing		3

Creative Writing Major

HU213	Creative Writing: Multi-Genre		3
HU211	Creative Writing Poetry		3
HU212	Creative Writing: Short Stories		3
SA482	Senior Seminar 2	3	
LA491	Creative Writing Advanced Tutorial 1		6
LA492	Creative Writing Advanced Tutorial 2		6

Choose One of the Following

3

HU314	Creative Writing: Experimental Approaches to the Book-Length Project		
HU313	Advanced Creative Writing Seminar: Poetics & Aesthetics		
FA313	Experimental Publications		
AH305	Art Criticism		

Choose One of the Following

3

HU301	The Personal Is Political		
HU315	Dueling Literary Avant-Gardes		
HU316	African American Studies in Music, Literature and Art		
HU317	GIANT Books		

Studio Electives

<u>One of the following – Digital Experience</u>		3
CA201	Introduction to Animation	
CA202	Animation: Maya	
DA303	Web Design	
FA201	Film, Video, and Audio: Intermediate (Field) Production	
FA202	Film, Video, and Audio: Advanced (Studio) Production	
FA301	Film, Video, and Audio: Experimental and New Media	
FA302	Film, Video, and Audio: Motion Graphics, Authoring and Special FX	
FA303	Film, Video, and Audio: Making and Marketing Indie Film	
FO123	Digital Drawing	
PH201	Digital Photography	

Art History

AH105	20th and 21st Century Art and Design: Issues and Ideas	3
AH110	20th and 21st Century Art and Design History: Media	3

One of the Following **3**

AH201	Art of the 20th Century	
AH202	20th and 21st Century Design History	
AH214	History of Photography	
AH215	History of Illustration	
AH300	Artistic Practice in the Contemporary World	

Additional Art History Elective **3**

Liberal Arts

HU101	Artist as Writer Workshop	3	
HU102	Artist as Reader Workshop		3
LA481	Senior Seminar 1	3	

One of the Following – Critical Thinking Experience **3**

HU201	Aesthetics	
HU210	Introduction to Philosophy	
AH211	Introduction to Visual Culture	

Additional Liberal Arts

Natural Science Elective	3
Social Science Elective	3
Humanities Elective	3
Liberal Arts Electives	12

Catalog Credits **120**

Course Descriptions

The course description for SA482 Senior Seminar 2 is located in the Studio Course Descriptions portion of the catalog. Students may enroll in any Creative Writing course as an elective for which they have the prerequisites or by permission of the instructor.

AH305 Art Criticism (3)

Art critic Clement Greenberg once stated, “You like it, that's all, whether it's a landscape or abstract. You like it. It hits you.” But just what is it about that landscape or abstraction that makes you “like” it? As a discipline, art criticism is the process of describing, analyzing, interpreting, and judging a work of art. Students will discover, and respond to, multiple definitions of art. They will develop skills to describe, analyze, interpret, and judge a diverse array of art, both verbally and in writing. Art Criticism, the course, is designed to enable students to recognize different critical perspectives, evaluate the multiple factors that affect interpretation, and develop articulated and justified arguments about what they like, or don't like, and why. (Prerequisites AH105, AH110, HU101, HU102)

FA313 Experimental Publications (3)

Experimental Publications utilizes the process of “publishing” as a catalyst for discovering alternative ways of being public with our work that exist outside of the art institution (galleries/museums). Students will be asked to explore the limitless possibilities of dissemination through creative exercises involving photo/photocopy, writing, video, performance, and lecture. We will read and discuss essays regarding theory and practice, meet with visiting artists and examine how our work relates to the world, untethered to the art institution, and the community it takes to sustain it. (Prerequisites: AH105, AH110, HU101, HU101)

HU213 Creative Writing: Multi-Genre (Fiction, Poetry & creative Non-Fiction) (3)

Students learn the fundamentals of writing in several genres in a workshop format. By reading and discussing established writers' work, as well as writing by their peers, students will form their own aesthetic for creating in a variety of literary genres. It is suggested that three genres be chosen from the following: poetry, short stories, drama, screenplays, and creative non-fiction. Genres covered may vary based on the expertise of the instructor. A portfolio of writing created throughout the semester and the performance of a public reading are requirements for completion of Creative Writing: Multi-Genre. (Prerequisite: HU101)

HU211 Creative Writing: Poetry (3)

Creative Writing: Poetry is an introduction to the launch pad, electric grid, and weird beauty of poetry. The fundamentals of poetry are presented, but more importantly poetic possibilities are explored. Through writing and revising their own poems, discussing the works of their peers, collaborating, and reading, students are provided with opportunities to think about language as an artistic material and activate its associative, figurative, and expressive depths. (Prerequisite: HU101)

HU212 Creative Writing: Short Stories (3)

In Creative Writing: Short Stories, the fundamentals of the short story are presented. By writing their own stories and discussing others' work, students develop the ability to express aesthetic ideas through written and spoken exercises. (Prerequisite: HU101)

HU301 The Personal Is the Political (3)

The phrase “The Personal Is Political” originated in Notes from the Second Year: Women's Liberation in 1970. In this course, we'll look at texts by a variety of contemporary authors who explore the intersection between one's personal, everyday life and larger social and political issues of race, class, gender, the environment, and other issues. Some questions we'll consider include: how do larger social and political issues impact our personal lives? How does/can writing about the self create political change or empowerment? We'll look at texts from the Women's Movement, the Black Arts Movement, and think about what it means to write about the larger world as we write about ourselves. (Prerequisites: HU101, HU102)

HU313 Advanced Creative Writing Seminar: Poetics/Aesthetics (3)

The Advanced Creative Writing Seminar: Poetics/Aesthetics is an upper-level Creative Writing course for students working in any genre who want to further develop their engagement with language through the exploration of poetics, aesthetics and philosophical inquiry. The course is part seminar and part workshop, and students are given opportunities to collide with language as a set of poetic limitations and possibilities simultaneously. Emphasis is placed on both language as an artistic material of charged possibility and as the fundamental conceptual framework we have for describing experience, imagining wildly and re/making the world in our ever-changing image. Seminar topics may include radical revision, translation, language as a social construct, deconstruction and other methods of interpretation, linguistic materiality, the political nature of language, collage, etc. (Prerequisites: AH105, AH110, HU101, HU102, HU213 or by permission of the instructor.)

HU314 Creative Writing: Experimental Approaches to the Book-Length Project

In Creative Writing: Experimental Approaches to the Book-Length Project, students will work to conceptualize, propose, and craft a book-length work of fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, or cross/hybrid-genre work. Early in the semester, we'll look at a variety of experimental texts as we consider the possibilities of what a book is in both formal and conceptual terms. The emphasis in this course will be largely on generation, experimentation, and formal innovation as students work through a series of student and instructor created prompts and procedures designed to push their projects forward and take new risks. We will also share our work in small groups and workshop student works-in-progress to help one another better conceptualize, craft, and deepen our work. (Prerequisites: AH105, AH110, HU101, HU102, HU213 or by permission of the instructor.)

HU315 Dueling Literary Avant-Gardes (3)

Dueling Literary Avant-Gardes traces the roots and reverberations of two avant-garde movements in terms of their literary output. Emphasis is placed on comparing the two movements against the backdrop of their historical and cultural moment(s). The avant-garde movements to be covered will vary with the expertise of the instructor. (Prerequisites: HU101, HU102)

HU316 African American Studies in Music, Literature & Art 1965 to NOW (3)

African American Studies in Music, Literature, & Art focuses on African American avant-garde jazz and literature as well as art from the Black Arts Movement (1965-1974) to the present. (Prerequisites: HU101, HU102)

HU317 GIANT Books (3)

GIANT Books is a literature course where students read and discuss, as well as write and make art about, GIANT BOOKS. Emphasis is placed on exploring the Western tradition of the epic as an artistic form of genesis, inclusion, and accumulation – one that makes and remakes the world, not only in our own image, but also in terms of transformation, exploration, and adventure. The course also seeks to compare and contrast the GIANT works discussed, while distilling common themes and modalities, images, strategies and parameters, pointing the way toward further creative and speculative writing/art-making. (Prerequisites: HU101, HU102)

LA491 and LA492 Creative Writing Advanced Tutorial (6)

Creative Writing Advanced Tutorial is the advanced-level course work for Creative Writing Majors. This course is taught collaboratively by a team of faculty. Students will complete their Creative Writing Thesis, which will typically consist of a book of poems, a collection of short stories, or a substantial portion of a longer work (such as a novel or essay collection), along with an introductory statement of poetics. However, students doing more conceptual or hybrid text-based work will consult with CW AT faculty to define and develop the shape and scope of the final CW thesis. Students will also prepare and rehearse their final performance or reading. This course will combine individual one-on-one faculty/student meetings with group discussions of literature and theory, along with advanced level workshop participation. In the process, this course will address issues related to publishing, collaboration, artistic responsibility and poetics. Ultimately CW AT will explore and contextualize in as deep and broad a way as possible contemporary creative writing, emphasizing both craft and content development, while considering what it means to be a radical, rebellious and responsible literary citizen. (Prerequisite: Senior Status, required for all Creative Writing Majors)

Creative Writing

Sample Schedule

First Year			Spring Semester	
Fall Semester			Studio Art 2: Creative Process	3
Studio Arts 1: Core	6		Studio Art 3: Color	3
Drawing		3	Artist as Reader Workshop	3
Artist as Writer Workshop	3		Art History	3
Art History		3	Drawing or Creative Writing: Multi-Genre 3	
			Total	15

Total	15		
Second Year		Spring Semester	
Fall Semester		Creative Writing Poetry	
GIANT BOOKS	3		3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Liberal Arts or Critical Thinking Elective	3	Liberal Arts or Critical Thinking Elective	3
Art History Elective	3	Liberal Arts Elective	3
Total	15	Total	15
Third Year		Spring Semester	
Fall Semester		Adv. Creative Writing Seminar	
Creative Writing: Short Stories	3		3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Liberal Arts Elective	3	Art History Elective	3
Liberal Arts Elective	3	Liberal Arts Elective	3
Total	15	Total	15
Fourth Year		Spring Semester	
Fall Semester		Creative Writing Advanced Tutorial 2	
Creative Writing Advanced Tutorial 1	6		6
Senior Seminar 1	3	Senior Seminar 2	3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Liberal Arts Elective	3	Liberal Arts Elective	3
Total	15	Total	15

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 120