



BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

The AAC’s Creative Writing major gives students the opportunity to engage with language as a fundamental artistic medium – one that 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 are artists who use the written and spoken word as their primary artistic material; they are not merely writers among artists in a college of art and design; they are artists whose medium is language. Reading becomes writing; writing becomes drawing, and words become means for getting at the limits of the word and the world, which are the limits of being itself. Through active reading, creative writing, 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 voice and vision.

Creative Writing majors at the AAC learn from writers who are active in writing, editing, and publishing at the national level, as well as from practicing contemporary visual artists such as painters, sculptors, designers, photographers, and performance artists. Upon graduation, students are prepared to creatively articulate, to critically examine, and to reinvent the world in their image via the spoken word and the written word. 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, beauty, and transformative strangeness.

Educational Objectives | Creative Writing Major

Creativity

Creative Writing majors engage in a range of diverse processes and produce creative and unpredictable outcomes that contribute to the dynamic, eclectic practice and innovative definition of contemporary writing and literature.

Curiosity

Through their commitment to inquiry, research, reading, and experimentation, Creative Writing majors define the formal and conceptual interests related to their own process, voice, and vision.

Individuality

Creative Writing majors articulate a unique and rebellious voice in their work; one that establishes a connection to the past while embracing the present and future expansiveness of multiple genres.

Education

Through exposure to traditional, experimental and hybrid forms and processes, Creative Writing majors employ and integrate the technical skills, strategies, and critical thinking necessary to create relevant, surprising contemporary work.

History

Students determine and defend the role of Creative Writing in relation to their deepening cultural and intellectual understanding of contemporary writing and publishing and the role of each in their own work.

Community

Through their pursuit of meaning/fullness via the written, spoken, and otherwise articulated word, Creative Writing majors make meaningful connections with the diverse communities within and beyond their chosen disciplines.

1 Artwork: Kyros Barton

Educational Outcomes | 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 that 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, 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 by 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 bases
- Submit 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 that articulates the historical, formal, and conceptual basis of the Creative Writing thesis
- Articulate problems, concerns, and areas for improvement in their writing and propose and execute new possibilities and methods for addressing them
- Create self-driven work in an interdisciplinary and conceptually depth-charged atmosphere
- Work individually and collaboratively to gain essential experiences in the development of their work through collaborative teaching within a range of disciplines
- Demonstrate learning at the AAC by completing the Creative Writing capstone experience, which consists of the written senior thesis, a written statement of poetics, a Formal Creative Presentation, Performance, and/or Exhibition, and a successful Culminating Capstone Review.



Matt Hart, MFA
Associate Professor, Liberal Arts Chair,
Head of Creative Writing Major
(Sabbatical Fall 2019)

Creative Writing Curriculum

FYE: STUDIO ARTS	FY101	Communication	3	
	FY102	Ideation	3	
	FY103	Discovery	3	
	FY104	Voice	3	
	FY105	Digital Literacy	3	
FYE: LIBERAL ARTS	AH105	20th and 21st Century Art and Design: Issues and Ideas	3	
	AH110	20th and 21st Century Art and Design History: Media	3	
	HU101	Artist as Writer Workshop	3	
	HU102	Artist as Reader Workshop	3	
CREATIVE WRITING MAJOR	Choose One	HU211	Creative Writing: Poetry	3
		HU212	Creative Writing: Short Stories	3
		HU213	Creative Writing: Multi-Genre	3
		FA313	Experimental Publications	
		HU313	Advanced Creative Writing Seminar: Poetics & Aesthetics	3
	Choose One	HU314	Creative Writing: Experimental Approaches to the Book-Length Project	
		HU301	The Personal is Political	
		HU315	Dueling Literary Avant-Gardes	
		HU316	African American Studies in Music, Literature and Art: 1965 to Present	3
		HU317	GIANT Books	
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE	PC201	Introduction to Professional Practice	3	
	PC301	Professional Pathways Preparation	3	
STUDIO ELECTIVES			27	
ART HISTORY	AH2xx	Any 200-level Art History Elective	3	
	AH3xx	Any 300-level Art History Elective	3	

LIBERAL ARTS	Critical Thinking: Choose One	HU101	Artist as Writer Workshop	3
		HU102	Artist as Reader Workshop	3
		LA481	Senior Seminar 1	3
	Additional Liberal Arts Coursework	AH211	Introduction to Visual Culture	
		HU201	Aesthetics	3
		HU210	Introduction to Philosophy	
		Natural Science Elective	3	
	SENIOR YEAR EXPERIENCE	Social Science Elective	3	
		Humanities Elective	3	
		Liberal Arts Electives	12	
LA481		Senior Thesis	3	
SA482		Senior Seminar	3	
SA491		Senior Pathway Studio 1	6	
SA492	Senior Pathway Studio 2	6		

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS **120 HRS**

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | CREATIVE WRITING MAJOR

Course descriptions for SA482 Senior Seminar, SA491 Senior Pathway Studio 1, and SA492 Senior Pathway Studio 2 are located in the Studio Arts Course Descriptions portion of the Catalog. Students may enroll in any Studio Arts course per the prerequisites specified for the course.

AH318 Experimental Music: A History of Sonic Discourse (3)
 Experimental Music surveys current and historical trends in experimental music: music that asks questions. Through listening to a wide variety of types of music (including early electronic music, free jazz, Krautrock, and glitch), students will develop an understanding of how musicians and artists can communicate through sound. Building on this historical framework, students will also be introduced to a variety of practical and hands-on approaches for incorporating sound into their artistic practices. (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)

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)

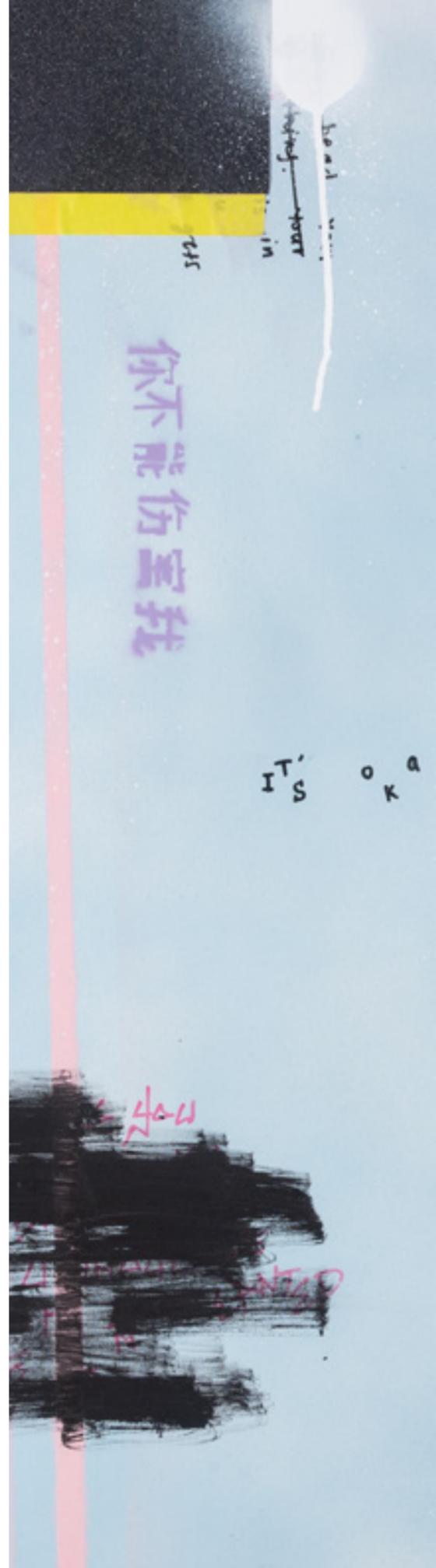
HU212 Creative Writing: Short Stories (3)
 In Creative Writing: Short Stories, the fundamentals of the short story are presented. By writing their own stories and discussing others’ work, students develop the ability to express aesthetic ideas through written and spoken exercises. (Prerequisite: HU101)

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 course faculty. 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)

HU301 The Personal is 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 among one’s personal, everyday life, 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 with Course Faculty permission.)

HU314 Creative Writing: Experimental Approaches to the Book-Length Project (3)
 In Creative Writing: Experimental Approaches to the Book-Length Project, students will work to conceptualize,



→Artwork: Savannah Vagedes

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 faculty 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 with Course Faculty permission.)

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 faculty. (Prerequisites: HU101, HU102)

HU316 African American Studies in Music, Literature & Art 1965 to the Present (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 in which 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)

Creative Writing: Sample Schedule

First Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Communication	3	Ideation	3
Discovery	3	Voice	3
Digital Literacy	3	Artist as Reader Workshop	3
Artist as Writer Workshop	3	Art History	3
Art History	3	Studio Elective or Creative Writing: Multi-Genre 3	3
Total	15	Total	15
Second Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
GIANT BOOKS	3	Creative Writing: Poetry	3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Studio Elective	3	Introduction to Professional Practice	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			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Creative Writing: Short Stories	3	Advanced Creative Writing Seminar	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	Professional Pathways Preparation	3
Total	15	Total	15
Fourth Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Senior Pathway Studio 1	6	Senior Pathway Studio 2	6
Senior Thesis	3	Senior Seminar	3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Liberal Arts Elective	3	Liberal Arts Elective	3
Total	15	Total	15

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS

120 HRS



BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN DESIGN

The Design major at the Art Academy integrates contemporary design practices and fine art studio processes enhanced by a liberal arts component that provides a rich trans-disciplinary experience. Design is a process of inquiry that leads to creative solutions for a variety of visual communication challenges. The AAC provides each student the intellectual and technical preparation needed to achieve success as a professional in the field. Our unique individualized approach emphasizes the development of strong research skills and broad industry knowledge side-by-side with fluid use of image-making tools for ideation, design thinking as a tool for problem-solving, proficient verbal and writing skills, and the development of an individual voice. This approach – in combination with extensive professional development – prepares students with the 21st century competencies and literacies needed to pursue creative industry careers as visual artists.

Students majoring in Design learn to manage ideas, artistic processes, audience expectations, composition, typography, and imagery to create sophisticated and transformative design solutions. Through professional and personal experiences, students encounter a range of challenges in areas that include brand identity and design solutions for environmental, garment, interactive, product, promotional, publication, and Web expressions. Many AAC graduates work at local, regional, national, and international design firms and studios, as well as corporate in-house design divisions. Many Design graduates also thrive in entrepreneurial and freelance enterprises and in related creative industries such as architecture, exhibitry and display, multi-media marketing, film, and the publications and entertainment industries.

Educational Objectives | Design Major

Creativity

Design majors engage in a diverse range of processes that produce creative and relevant results. Creative design solutions are the results of a shared understanding of the design challenge presented,

a passion for change-making to actualize desired outcomes; engagement with artistic process, and dynamic problem-solving among collaborating voices and visions.

Curiosity

Through their commitment to inquiry, research, and experimentation, Design majors explore, test, reinvent, and execute their visual ideas. Ultimately, they discover the rationales that substantiate their aesthetic inquiry and provide innovative solutions to visual communication design challenges.

Individuality

Empowered with strategies and methods used in the industry to solve visual communication dilemmas, Design majors devise solutions from concept, to prototype, to functioning 2D, 3D, and 4D innovations. They foster a self-disciplined work commitment that invigorates their vision and voice as they develop self-determination, resilience, and personal confidence through thoughtful, engaged practice.

Education

Design majors learn the value of collaboration in the pursuit of original ideas. Each new challenge offers an opportunity to learn new ways to understand and reinvent how they work. Students learn ways to adapt to the ever-changing world of technology, language, and economies that drive the creative industry.

History

Design majors learn to develop relevant contexts for their work and professional interests. They also develop connections within their profession and within the larger community.

Community

Community is about making professional and personal connections that validate students' interests and encourages emerging professionals to help build collaborative pools of diverse talents, capabilities, cultural perspectives, and possibilities. Design majors engage in local, regional, and national alliances that provide opportunities to solve visual communication challenges in partnership with key players motivated by a common vision.