Course Descriptions

CW 1040 - Bergstraesser

This course is designed to help you craft various works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. In addition to in-class writing exercises, creative exercises outside of class, and discussions, you will critique each other’s writing in a constructive workshop atmosphere—thereby developing useful editorial skills that will help you improve your own writing. Through lecture and discussion, we will explore the technique and devices involved in creating fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. We will read and discuss the works of many different writers, using their technique and content as a guide for your own writing. This course fulfills the University Studies Intellectual Community (I) requirement.

CW 2050 – Pexton

In this class, we will read and write short fiction, with the purpose of learning the elements that comprise good fiction: setting, character, plot, point of view, voice, etc. Through discussion, writing exercises, lots and lots of reading, and workshop, students will practice honing their own fiction-writing skills. Pre-req: COM1; CW1040

CW 2060 – Heaney

The new nonfiction course will be described according to the emphasis the individual professor chooses to impart. In general, the course will teach students to research, organize, and express themselves in a nonfiction genre, such as essay, memoir, article, biography, autobiography, etc. Prerequisite: WA/COM1

CW 2080 – Fitch

Analyzes forms of poetry and practice of creative writing at introductory level. Prerequisite: WA/COM1.

CW 2125 – Pexton

The Science Fiction genre has, from the start, been one of the best ways of reflecting a culture’s values and fears. It has spawned a number of subgenres, from Fantasy to Speculative Fiction. Sci-Fi spans all media from early radio to print, from film and TV to the Internet and video games. In this class, we will read, listen to, and watch a variety of Sci-Fi stories to learn where it began, what it can do, and what the “rules” are for writing good Sci-Fi. If you love reading Sci-Fi or Fantasy, if you think you might want to write in this genre, this is the class for you! Pre-req: COM1
CW 4050 Book Arts– Hagy/Ritchie

Team-taught by visual artist Mark Ritchie and writer Alyson Hagy, this course introduces students to the history of the book as an object and the traditional crafts associated with book construction. A basic knowledge of technical processes used in book construction (print-making, typography, binding, etc.) and a general knowledge of the history of the book will be gained through demonstrations, hands-on studio work, slide lectures, and visits to museums and archives. This course is appropriate for intrepid writers who wish to learn how to construct simple books and how to analyze books as objects of artistic expression. Collaborations among visual artists and creative writers will be encouraged, but students should note this course is labor intensive. Prerequisite: COM2 and a 2000-level creative writing course. Creative Writing graduate students may arrange to enroll in this class at the 4000 level, as appropriate. Note: This course is capped at 10 students. Initial enrollment will be limited to Creative Writing graduate students and Creative Writing minors.

CW 4050 Fiction– Lapcharoensap

Students submit manuscripts in the short story, poetry, drama, etc. Includes class and conference criticism and consultation. Considers different types of creative writing in various semesters, as announced in class schedule. Prerequisites: 3 hours of a 2000-level creative writing class in the appropriate genre and consent of instructor.