

11/17/2014



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## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Revision to the Major in the Science and Letters Curriculum: BALAS Creative Writing, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**SPONSOR:** Jodee Stanley, Director of Creative Writing, Department of English. phone: 217-300-4315. email: jastan@illinois.edu.

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Associate Dean Karen Carney, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. kmcарney@illinois.edu

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** It has been decades since the Creative Writing major requirements have been revised. With the recent approval of two new literature courses (CW 100: Introduction to Creative Writing and CW 200: Reading for Writers), both of which were successfully piloted over multiple semesters, we are ready to move those courses into the major, CW 100 as the ideal gateway into the major and CW 200 as a course the Creative Writing major would take before moving into Intermediate Creative Writing Courses like CW 204 or CW 206. We are also proposing that our majors consider taking either ENGL 218 or ENGL 418 to satisfy the major's Shakespeare requirement. ENGL 418 is no longer a requirement for the English major, and giving students the option of taking either ENGL 218 or ENGL 418 reduces pressure on seats in ENGL 418 and gives students more flexibility in their schedules.

**JUSTIFICATION:** For decades, the Creative Writing major has consisted of ten courses, five in "Writing" and five in "Literature." Aside from the 400-level Shakespeare requirement (ENGL 418), nothing directed a Creative Writing major's choices in literature but the need for advanced hours. Since the time we started piloting CW 100 and CW 200, we intended them to serve the major in two key ways. One, their mandatory status will firm up the literature side of the Creative Writing major by giving students a couple of extra common experiences: two literature courses they will all take. Two, the courses' mandatory status will ensure that all majors have at least two courses taught by Creative Writing faculty. This will give students course experience in intensely reading and studying literature, in addition to the courses they take now that emphasize the writing of it. Unlike English majors, who are required to take ENGL 200 (Introduction to Literary Studies) as preparation for taking literature courses at the 200-, 300-, and 400-level, Creative Writing majors lack the foundation they need to excel in the literature part of the major as it stands. The result too often is weak performance. CW 100 and CW 200, made mandatory, will strengthen the reading, writing, and interpretive skills of Creative Writing majors and encourage success in the literature part of the major.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:** *(Please respond to each of the following questions. Place your response right after each item. See [Appendix A](#) for questions required of new degree program proposals as well additional notes regarding budgetary and staff implications.)*

- a. Additional staff and dollars needed: None. The two courses we're proposing as mandatory in our revised major (CW 100 and CW 200) already exist and we have been offering them regularly (CW 100 approved as a course effective Fall 2013, but piloted as RHET 199 the last three fall semesters and CW 200 approved as a course effective Fall 2013 and taught under that number F13 and Sp14, but piloted as ENGL 199 every Fall and Spring semester since Fall 1999).
- b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.): The only internal reallocation that we might anticipate would occur a couple of fall semesters in the future when and if CW 100 attains General Education status. At that point we hope to offer the course as we did the first time we piloted it: 72 seats with two teaching assistants leading a total of four discussion groups.
- c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments. Because we're merely making two highly recommended literature courses mandatory, there should be no effect on other courses.
- d. Impact on the University Library: None.
- e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.: None.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2015

## STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

# Creative Writing

Department of English

<http://www.english.illinois.edu>

Head of Department: Michael Rothberg

Department Office: 208 English Building, 608 South Wright, Urbana, (217) 333-2391

The Creative Writing major, administered by the Department of English, combines small workshops (poetry, fiction, nonfiction) and a variety of literature courses. The result is a strong but flexible program of study that develops students' analytical and creative skills and prepares them for graduate study in any number of fields.

## Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum

E-mail: [english@english.uiuc.edu](mailto:english@english.uiuc.edu)

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Minimum required core and supporting course work normally equates to 36 hours. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus, of which at least three hours must be Creative Writing Courses (CW 404 or CW 406). All Creative Writing courses must be taken in sequence (CW 104 before CW 204, etc.).

General education: Students must complete the [Campus General Education](#) requirements.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Departmental distinction: A student must enter the honors program with a 3.25 grade point average and complete two English honors seminars and a significant writing project in RHET 455. The level of distinction is assigned by the honors committee based on work in rhetoric courses and honors seminars and on the readers' evaluations of the writing project. Interested students should consult the departmental advisor for details.

Hours	Requirements
6	<b>Literature Foundational Coursework</b> CW 100- Intro to Creative Writing CW 200- Reading for Writers
12	<b>Creative Writing Coursework</b> Students complete 12 hours of creative writing coursework, including at least one of the following 3-course (9-hour) sequences: CW 106: Intro to Poetry Writing CW 206: Intermediate Poetry Writing CW 406: Advanced Poetry Writing OR

	<p>CW 104: Intro to Narrative Writing  CW 204: Intermediate Narrative Writing  CW 404: Advanced Narrative Writing</p> <p>The remaining three hours of writing coursework can be satisfied by a fourth CW workshop outside of the mandatory sequence or any of the following writing courses: ENGL 401, 402, 403, and 481; BTW 250, 261, and 271; CMN 310, 423, and 432; JOUR 475; and THEA 211.</p>
3	<p><b>Expository Writing (Advanced Composition)</b>  CW 243: Intermediate Expository Writing <sup>1</sup></p>
3	<p><b>Shakespeare</b>  ENGL 418- Shakespeare or  ENGL 218- Introduction to Shakespeare</p>
6	<p><b>Literature Coursework:</b>  6 hours of English or American literature coursework chosen from approved list. See Appendix B.</p>
6	<p><b>Supporting Coursework:</b>  History and Culture Coursework. Choose one of the following pairs:  CWL 241 and CWL 242: Masterpieces of West Culture I &amp; II  HIST 141: Western Civ to 1660 and HIST 142: Western Civ Since 1660  HIST 171: US Hist to 1877 and HIST 172: US Hist Since 1877  HIST 255: British Isles to 1688 and HIST 256: Great Britain Since 1688</p>
36	Total Hours

1. Credit is not given for both CW 243 and RHET 233. Students who have taken RHET 233 prior to declaring the CW major must take CW 208- Creative Nonfiction Writing instead of CW 243 to complete this requirement. Students who take CW 208 for their Expository Writing requirement cannot count CW 208 toward the required 12 hours of Creative Writing coursework.

All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.

**CLEARANCES:** (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. **These signatures must appear on a separate sheet.** If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

Signatures:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Schick", written over a horizontal line.

Unit Representative:

October 17, 2013

Date:

College Representative:

Date:

**Appendix A:**  
Comparative Table of Proposed Changes  
Change highlighted

Current Hours	Current Requirements	Proposed Hours	Proposed Requirements
		6	<b>Literature Foundational Coursework</b> CW 100- Intro to Creative Writing CW 200- Reading for Writers
3	One course in expository writing, choose from: RHET 243 - Inter Expository Writing <sup>1</sup> CW 208 - Creative Nonfiction Writing	3	<b>Expository Writing (Advanced Composition)</b> CW 243: Intermediate Expository Writing <sup>1</sup>
<b>12</b>	Creative Writing courses selected from: <sup>2</sup> CW 104 - Introductory Narrative Writing CW 106 - Introductory Poetry Writing CW 204 - Intermediate Narrative Writing CW 208 - Creative Nonfiction Writing CW 404 - Advanced Narrative Writing CW 406 - Advanced Poetry Writing CW 455 - Creative Writing Tutorial	12	<b>Creative Writing Coursework</b> Students complete 12 hours of creative writing coursework, including at least one of the following 3-course (9-hour) sequences: CW 106: Intro to Poetry Writing CW 206: Intermediate Poetry Writing CW 406: Advanced Poetry Writing  OR  CW 104: Intro to Narrative Writing CW 204: Intermediate Narrative Writing CW 404: Advanced Narrative Writing  The remaining three hours of writing coursework can be satisfied by a fourth CW workshop outside of the mandatory sequence or any of the following writing courses: ENGL 401, 402, 403, and 481; BTW 250, 261, and 271; CMN 310, 423, and 432; JOUR 475; and THEA 211

3	One course in Shakespeare: ENGL 300 - Writing About Literature (when offered on a Shakespeare topic) ENGL 418 - Shakespeare	3	<b>Shakespeare</b> ENGL 418- Shakespeare or ENGL 218- Introduction to Shakespeare
12	English and American literature courses selected from 200-, 300- and 400-level courses.	6	<b>Literature Coursework:</b> 6 hours of English or American literature coursework chosen from approved list.
6	Six hours of supporting coursework  History and Culture Coursework: Choose one of the following pairs: HIST 141 - Western Civ to 1660 (or HIST 140), and HIST 142 - Western Civ Since 1660 (or HIST 143) Or HIST 255 - British Isles to 1688, and HIST 256 - Britain and World Since 1688 Or CWL 241 - Lit Europe & the Americas I, and CWL 242 - Lit Europe and the Americas, II Or HIST 171- US Hist to 1877 and HIST 172-US Hist Since 1877	6	<b>Supporting Coursework:</b> History and Culture Coursework. Choose one of the following pairs: CWL 241 and CWL 242: Masterpieces of West Culture I & II  HIST 141: Western Civ to 1660 and HIST 142: Western Civ Since 1660  HIST 171: US Hist to 1877 and HIST 172: US Hist Since 1877  HIST 255: British Isles to 1688 and HIST 256: Great Britain Since 1688
<b>36</b>	Total hours	<b>36</b>	Total hours
	1. Credit is not given for both RHET 233 and RHET 243. Students who have received credit for RHET 233 must take CW 208. Other students should take RHET 243.  2. With the written permission of a Creative Writing adviser, 3 of these 12 hours may be selected from the following courses: ENGL 380, 401, 402, 403, 481; BTW 250, 261, 263, 271; CMN 310, 415, 416, 417, 423,		<b>1.</b> Credit is not given for both CW 243 and RHET 233. Students who have taken RHET 233 prior to declaring the CW major must take CW 208- Creative Nonfiction Writing instead of CW 243 to complete this requirement. Students who take CW 208 for their Expository Writing requirement cannot count CW 208 toward the required 12 hours of Creative Writing coursework.

	<p>432; JOUR 475; and PHIL 102.</p> <p>Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus, of which at least three hours must be Creative Writing Courses (CW 404 or CW 406). All Creative Writing courses must be taken in sequence (CW 104 before CW 204, etc.)</p> <p>All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.</p>		<p>Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus, of which at least three hours must be Creative Writing Courses (CW 404 or CW 406). All Creative Writing courses must be taken in sequence (CW 104 before CW 204, etc.)</p> <p>All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.</p>
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## Appendix B

### Literature Coursework

Students may choose courses from the following list of fulfill the 6 hours of Literature Coursework in English or American Literature. All courses are within the English (ENG) course listings.

- 200Intro to the Study of Lit;
- 202Medieval Lit and Culture;
- 204 Renaissance Lit and Culture;
- 206Enlightenment Lit and Culture;
- 207Romantic Lit and Culture;
- 208Victorian Lit and Culture;
- 209British Lit to 1800;
- 210British Lit 1800 to Present;
- 241Beginnings of Modern Poetry;
- 242Poetry Since 1940;
- 245The Short Story;
- 247The British Novel;
- 250The American Novel to 1914;
- 251The American Novel Since 1914;
- 255Survey of American Lit I;
- 256Survey of American Lit II;
- 259Afro-American Literature I;
- 260Afro-American Literature II;
- 265Intro to American Indian Lit-  
controlled by AIS 265;
- 280Women Writers;
- 281Women in the Lit Imagination;
- 286Asian American Literature;
- 407Introduction to Old English;
- 411Chaucer;
- 412Topics in Medieval Brit Lit;
- 416Topics in Brit Drama to 1660;
- 421Later Renaiss Poetry & Prose;
- 423Milton;
- 426Early 18th Century Literature;
- 427Later 18th Century Literature;
- 428British Drama 1660-1800;
- 42918th Century Fiction;
- 431Topics in British Romantic Lit;
- 434Victorian Poetry & Prose;
- 43519th C British Fiction;
- 441British Lit 1900-1930;
- 442British Lit Since 1930;
- 449American Lit 1820-1865;
- 450American Lit 1865-1914;
- 451American Lit 1914-1945;
- 452American Lit 1945-Present;
- 459Topics in American Indian Lit;
- 460Lit of American Minorities;
- 475Lit and Other Disciplines;
- 476Topics in Lit & Environment