CREATIVE WRITING (CRWR)

The courses listed on this page are exclusive to the LPS BAAS degree (https://lpsonline.sas.upenn.edu/features/what-bachelor-applied-arts-and-sciences-degree/) and LPS Online certificates (https://lpsonline.sas.upenn.edu/academics/certificates/).

CRWR 101 The Craft of Creative Writing
The Craft of Creative Writing is designed for students who are new to creative writing or who would like to return to the fundamentals of craft. Through frequent writing assignments, assigned readings and collaborative discussions, students familiarize themselves with a variety of styles and approaches, exploring a range of literary genres including poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, memoir and journalistic prose. Students are expected to hone their skills in creative practice, to revise and take risks with their work and to cultivate their habits of close reading and peer workshop.
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

CRWR 160 Modern and Contemporary US Poetry
In this fast-paced introductory course, students read and discuss a wide range of modern and contemporary American poets, beginning with Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman and ending with 21st-century avant-garde poets like Tracie Morris. Questions central to this course include "How does experimental poetry help us understand the transition between modernism and postmodernism?" and "What is the relationship between experimental poetry and experimental teaching?" The poems and poets we study challenge students to read critically and think differently about what a poem is, about what art can be and about what poetry can teach us about reading, writing and learning. Students do not need to have any prior knowledge of poetry or poetics. The course operates primarily as a discussion. Rather than attending lectures, students participate in web-based discussions of the poems, accessible in text, audio and video formats. Requirements include active participation in the online discussion forums, in addition to five short papers, quizzes, creative exercises and a comprehensive final examination.
Taught by: Anna Strong Safford
Also Offered As: ENLT 160
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

CRWR 201 Poetry Workshop
Poetry Workshop is a course for students who are new to poetry or who would like to return to the fundamentals of poetry. This workshop uses frequent writing assignments, assigned readings and collaborative workshop discussions to explore various elements of poetic craft, including imagery, metaphor, line, stanza, music, rhythm, diction, and tone.
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

CRWR 240 The Art of Editing
TBA
Taught by: Julia Bloch
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

CRWR 260 Fiction Workshop
Fiction Workshop is a course for students who are new to fiction writing or who are new to fiction writing or who would like to return to the fundamentals of fiction. This collaborative workshop uses frequent writing assignments, assigned readings and workshop discussions to explore various elements of the craft of fiction, including character, form, description, dialogue, setting, genre, and plot.
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

CRWR 300 Writing About Place
This multi-genre, collaborative workshop is devoted to writing of and about place both literally writing about the city or the landscape, for example, and figuratively writing that engages thematically and formally with location, with displacement and with the writing process itself as a form of mapping and belonging.
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

CRWR 320 Screenwriting
Students are required to complete and revise the first 30 pages of a feature-length screenplay. In place of introductory lectures on story and cinema, an interactive presentation provides multimedia lectures that include sample text, images, and audio and video clips. In addition to two rounds of individual student workshop sessions, students have one-on-one meetings with the instructor conducted through video, audio, or text chat. The final grade is a cumulative assessment of student performance over the course of the term, factoring in all assignments, participation in discussion threads and progress made in the revision of 30 screenplay pages.
Taught by: John Scott F. Burkhardt
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

CRWR 360 Advanced Nonfiction
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

CRWR 370 Journalism
This is a how-to course for talented aspiring writers, drawn from the instructor’s three decades of experience as a full-time working journalist. Learn how to write well in the real world, how to hook the reader and sustain interest, how to mix scenes with exposition, and how to develop the journalistic skills that enable a writer to gather, sift and report information. While reading assignments include famous practitioners of nonfiction writing including Susan Orlean and Gene Weingarten, along with recent Penn alumni Matt Flegenheimer and David Murrell the emphasis is on writing and reporting nonfiction pieces from personal memoirs to observational features and profiles of interesting people. The course is designed to inspire you to tap into your potential, gain fresh insights, and feel comfortable enough to share written assignments—both short and long pieces—with classmates over the span of the semester.
The course also addresses practical and ethical journalistic issues such as selecting and handling interviewees, how to use (and not use) the Internet, and when to use (or not use) anonymous sources.
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit