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 1010 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 feedback.
1 Course Unit

CRWR 1600 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.
Also Offered As: ENLT 1600
1 Course Unit

CRWR 2010 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.
1 Course Unit

CRWR 2400 The Art of Editing
This course takes a critical and practical approach to the art of editing. Is the editor simply a “failed writer,” as T. S. Eliot claimed, or is good editing the key to a writer’s clarity and integrity? In addition to exploring theories and histories of the red pen—including Marianne Moore’s five-decade quest to revise a single poem and the editor who was discovered to have invented Raymond Carver’s distinctive narrative style—we immerse ourselves in the technical aspects of editing, covering such topics as the difference between developmental and line editing, the merits of MLA and Chicago style, proofreading in hard copy and digital environments, and when to wield an em dash. Students gain practical editing experience, learn about a range of different levels of editorial interventions, and investigate the politics of language usage and standards. This course is suitable for aspiring copyeditors or any writer who wants to polish up their grammar and punctuation skills.
1 Course Unit

CRWR 2500 Writing and Meditation
Writing and Meditation is a course for students interested in intersections between creativity and contemplative practice. No previous experience is necessary. Curiosity and openness to multiple traditions of mindfulness is encouraged. In each module we’ll explore a different approach to present awareness and writing. Readings will explore many routes, including attention, movement, stillness, gazing, listening, and dreaming. We’ll read sacred and secular texts spanning time and place from the Spanish mystic Teresa of Ávila, to contemporary poets such as Zen priest Norman Fischer and luminaries such as Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche and Pema Chodron. We’ll also explore visionary visual artists such as Hilma af Klint and musicians including Alice Coltrane and Laraaji. Students will write in response to written and audio prompts, receive peer and instructor feedback on their work, and compile a portfolio of writing created throughout the course.
1 Course Unit

CRWR 2600 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.
1 Course Unit

CRWR 2800 Narrative Collage
Narrative Collage is designed for students interested in experimenting with different kinds of prose, including memoir and fiction, and is appropriate for any level of experience, from curious beginners to accomplished writers. This course will explore fiction and creative nonfiction using nontraditional techniques including nonlinear segments, multiple voices, found texts, and more. Students will dig into readings from a wide range of sources, from Sei Shōnagon’s 10th-century Pillow Book through contemporary works such as Jenny Offill’s Weather, and will write weekly responses to those readings. Every week, students will produce their own original creative work using a number of narrative collage techniques discussed in class, and will have the opportunity to revise and polish their own writing. Lively peer feedback is required in the form of discussion boards. Additionally, there will be optional live sessions for discussion and sharing creative work.
1 Course Unit
CRWR 3000 Writing About Place
This multi-genre, collaborative course is devoted to writing of and about
place. Students consider 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.
1 Course Unit

CRWR 3200 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 feedback 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.
1 Course Unit

CRWR 3600 Advanced Nonfiction
Students in this course study a range of genres in creative nonfiction,
including memoir, personal essay, and journalistic prose. Students use
frequent writing assignments, assigned readings, and collaborative peer
feedback to explore various elements of prose writing, with an emphasis
on voice, description, narrative structure, and approaches to time.
1 Course Unit

CRWR 3700 Journalism Workshop
This is a course dedicated to the practice of journalistic writing. Students
will learn about a range of journalistic genres, which may include
interviews, profiles, reportage, features, storytelling, and criticism, as well
as a range of journalistic writing tools, which may include exposition,
quotation, research methodology, and fact-checking.
1 Course Unit