

ENGLISH WRITING

ENGWRT 0410 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING 3 cr.

This is the first course that Writing students take to get acquainted with the genres of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction in order to continue in more advanced courses. Students read classic and contemporary writers and poets to learn such basic components as scene, setting, dialogue, image, line, and meter. Students will work together and with the professor in several rough-draft sessions as the students compose essays, short stories, and poems. Students are also encouraged to submit to and join the staff of *Pendulum*, the student literary magazine.

Prerequisite: ENGCMP 0020.

ENGWRT 0411 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE NONFICTION 3 cr.

Introduces undergraduates to creative nonfiction, a genre that often borrows from fiction writer's techniques while sticking to the facts. Genre includes personal essay, new journalism, memoir and quality feature writing.

Prerequisite: ENGCMP 0020.

ENGWRT 0520 INTRODUCTION TO FICTION WRITING 3 cr.

This first course in the fiction sequence introduces students to aspects of prose fiction--plot, point of view, characterization, conflict, etc. Students may write exercises on these aspects of fiction, write one or more short stories and revise frequently. Students will also read representative stories and explore their use of particular fictional techniques.

Prerequisite: ENGCMP 0020.

ENGWRT 0530 INTRODUCTION TO POETRY WRITING 3 cr.

Through writing exercises, analysis of modern and contemporary poetry and frequent revision of their own poetry, students learn the basic elements of poetry writing.

Prerequisite: ENGCMP 0020.

ENGWRT 0550 FUNDAMENTALS OF NEWS REPORTING 3 cr.

Students in this course will practice the fundamentals of writing for newspapers and other publications, whether in print or online, that deliver timely news. Those fundamentals including identifying news, writing effective hard news summary leads and alternative feature leads, identifying proper sources for a story, conducting research and interviews, using quotes effectively, attributing information thoroughly, and structuring stories well. Students will cover stories in their surrounding communities: the university, Oakland, the city of Pittsburgh. The course will include lectures and discussions about newspaper law and ethics, as well as a look at the role that online-only newspapers and blog sites play in reporting the news and driving

the news coverage of the more traditional major news providers. Students will be required to read a local daily newspaper to keep up on news in their community. This course prepares students for advanced reporting, where they will write longer enterprise and investigative stories. Students in this course also will be encouraged to apply for a job as a writer at the Pitt News, the University's independent daily student newspaper.

Prerequisite: ENGCMP 0020.

ENGWRT 1010 INTERMEDIATE FICTION 3 cr.

Assumes students know the basics of fiction. Students work on writing short stories and read a wide range of stories. Students can expect to revise their work regularly. Class sessions will address problems in fiction writing—from plot to characterization, from point-of-view to style.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410.

ENGWRT 1012 DIGITAL STORYTELLING 1 3 cr.

This course will introduce students to the history and transformative power of digital technologies and to how these technologies influence the ways we create and share stories today. We will explore the ways technology helps us tell stories through new and emerging narrative forms, including blogs, podcasts, photo/sensory essays, and other combinations of audio and video forms. We will study methods digital storytellers use to connect with audiences in unique and intimate ways, and students will create their own stories with specific audiences in mind. Students will practice storytelling using a variety of digital mediums and will construct their own digital storytelling portfolios to showcase their work.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410 or Instructor's Permission.

ENGWRT 1022 DIGITAL STORYTELLING 2 3 cr.

Digital Storytelling 2 is the advanced-level, follow-up course to Digital Storytelling 1. In this course, students will refine and advance the skills they acquired in DS 1 and use those skills to produce an in-depth personal digital narrative or immersion project.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 1012.

ENGWRT 1089 THE CREATIVE PROCESS 3 cr.

Interweaves the theoretical and psychological perspectives of the creative process with the experiences, work and words of both painters and poets. Master articulations of psychological theories and artistic experiential models inform the lectures, workshop and guest appearances.

Prerequisites: ENGWRT 0410 and PSY 0010.

ENGWRT 1095 TOPICS IN FICTION 3 cr.

Concerns itself with matters of interest in fiction writing, form and technique, contemporary production, and the relation of the fiction writer to his/her society.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410.

ENGWRT 1170 SHORT STORY WORKSHOP 3 cr.

Involve rigorous discussion of the stories written by students as well as stories by some contemporary practitioners of genre fiction, such as science fiction and fantasy. Emphasis will be on the poetics, not the mechanics, of writing literary fiction. Each student will write and revise four stories over the semester.

Prerequisites: ENGWRT 0410 and ENGWRT 0520.

ENGWRT 1175 FICTION SEMINAR: FAMILIES AND SMALL TOWNS 3 cr.

Studies short fiction whose primary settings are small town and whose primary characters are family members.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410.

ENGWRT 1210 POETRY WORKSHOP 3 cr.

For this advanced poetry writing course, the central text will be the student's own writing. Students will read recently published poetry, regularly write their own poetry and frequently rewrite it.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410.

ENGWRT 1250 FORMAL POETRY WRITING 3 cr.

This course reviews free verse and then introduces the student to various verse forms of poetry. Examples from many time periods will be studied; however, special focus will be placed on modern and contemporary poets writing in meter. Students will write in free verse and then in various rhymed and unrhymed forms (e.g., the haiku, sonnet, sestina, and villanelle). Emphasis will be on the experimentation with and potential of verse form, not on its perfection.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410.

ENGWRT 1290 READINGS IN CONTEMPORARY POETRY 3 cr.

Focuses on American poets who have come to prominence since 1963. We will read widely in the poetry of this period to understand its unique contribution to the development of poetic form and its relationship to the culture that produced it.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410.

ENGWRT 1310 **NEWSPAPER 1** **3 cr.**

Students learn how to profile individuals, report trends, take polls and write about a community. The course provides hands-on practice in feature writing and a workshop approach to critiquing students' and professionals' work

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0550.

ENGWRT 1331 MAGAZINE 1 3 cr.

Students will learn how to write for the magazine market. The focus is on writing for specific audiences. Students will learn how demographics and editorial vision affect content. They'll practice developing a variety of writer-voices and learn how to write for target markets. They'll find subjects they're passionate about and find target magazine markets that match. Students will generate story ideas, conduct research and reportage, write and re-write and ultimately publish their work either in an on-campus publication or beyond.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0550.

ENGWRT 1380 NEWS PRACTICUM – THE INSIDER 3 cr.

This course is for writers, editors, photojournalists, graphic designers, business managers, and editorial cartoonists at *The Pitt-Greensburg Insider*, or for those who aspire to be on staff. We critique the daily editions of *The Insider* online and in print. You will learn how to pitch, report, write, and edit stories with the goal of publishing them. You will collaborate with your colleagues to strengthen your journalism skills and learn what goes into making excellent journalism. This includes thinking critically about interviewing, researching, writing, placement of stories, and visual journalism, as well as ethics and legal issues. Practicing journalists will visit the class. This three-credit course provides the initial credit for first-time *Insider* staff members. The course is repeatable (as ENGWRT 1381) for 2 credits to allow you to continue to work on *The Insider* throughout your time at Pitt-Greensburg.

Prerequisite: ENGCMP 0020.

ENGWRT 1381 NEWS PRACTICUM – THE INSIDER 2 cr.

Students who would like to continue to work on *The Insider* may continue to receive academic credit by signing up for this repeatable course after completing ENGWRT 1380.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 1380.

ENGWRT 1390 READINGS IN CONTEMPORARY NONFICTION 3 cr.

Familiarizes students with a number of different forms of and approaches to contemporary non-fiction writing.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410.

ENGWRT 1395	PUBLIC RELATIONS WRITING	3 cr.
--------------------	---------------------------------	--------------

Studies the ways an organization communicates with its public through news releases, speeches, brochures, feature stories, annual reports, etc. Examines the stylistic choices each writer makes and develops a critical language to describe how meaning is created through the way information is arranged. Issues of the media, ethics, propaganda, and the uses of ambiguity will also be addressed.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410.

ENGWRT 1410	TOPICS IN NONFICTION: MEMOIR	3 cr.
--------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------

"A creative writing class is one of the few places where your life still matters," Richard Hugo, a great writer and teacher, once said. That idea is at the center of this course. Students will read a series of memoirs, both classic and contemporary, and examine the ways writers construct the truths of their lives on the page. In conjunction with the assigned readings—which will include work by writers ranging from Ernest Hemingway to David Sedaris, Simone DeBeauvoir to Joan Didion—students will draw from their own life experiences and write a series of essay-length memoirs about the things that matter to them most. Class includes a workshop component that allows students to share their writing each week. Topics have included Food Writing, Memoir Writing, Travel Writing, Nature Writing, and other subjects.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410.

ENGWRT 1415	TOPICS IN NONFICTION WRITING	3 cr.
--------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------

Intensive readings- and workshop-oriented course highlighting the various subgenres of creative nonfiction. Topics vary from term to term and include such areas as memoir writing, nature writing, travel writing, narrative/immersion journalism and more.

Prerequisites: ENGCMP 0020, ENGWRT 0410, and (ENGWRT 0411 or ENGWRT 0550).

ENGWRT 1420	BLOGGING: JOURNALISM'S NEXT WAVE	3 cr.
--------------------	---	--------------

Requires students to study contemporary blogs -- both good and bad. We'll trace the history of non-traditional reportage and examine the impact bloggers have on other forms of journalism, the quality of blog reportage, how technology is affecting the quality and quantity of traditional reportage, and the problematic and/or empowering position of the "I" in reportage. We'll also examine information overload in the 21st century and work on developing the critical skills necessary to distinguish what is and isn't news, what is and isn't valuable, what is and isn't fair and/or accurate in cyberspace and beyond. As part of the course, students will also create and maintain their own blogs and participate in blogging communities.

Prerequisites: ENGWRT 0410 and (ENGWRT 0411 or ENGWRT 0550).

ENGWRT 1430 LITERARY AND ONLINE PUBLISHING 3 cr.

This course will introduce students to the art and craft of literary and online publishing. Students will research independent literary magazines and small presses, both online and in print. They will learn the basics of literary publishing from both an editorial and an authorial perspective. They will use what they learn to produce an online site featuring the work of Pitt-Greensburg writing program graduates, as well as individual print chapbook-length collections from the English Writing Program Capstone.

Prerequisites: ENGWRT 0410 and (ENGWRT 0411 or ENGWRT 0520 or ENGWRT 0530 or ENWRT 0550).

ENGWRT 1650 PLAYWRITING 3 cr.

A beginning course in writing for the stage. Starting with short scenes, students will work towards understanding the craft and art of constructing theatre stories to be performed by actors. The final project will be a one-act play. Throughout, there will be emphasis on the stage effectiveness of the writing and opportunity for informal performance of student scripts.

Prerequisite: None.

ENGLIT 1900 INTERNSHIP: WRITING 3 cr.

Offers students an opportunity to work as interns for local media, including newspapers, magazines and television stations. The internships are complemented by close supervision and seminars dealing with some of the ethical, legal, and practical issues facing the working professional.

Note: Department Consent Required.

ENGWRT 1955 ENGLISH WRITING CAPSTONE 3 cr.

Capstone course for English Writing majors. In this course—which should be taken during a student’s final semester—writing majors receive a complete immersion into the writing life. Students prepare a publishable chapbook-length manuscript in their chosen genres. Students share a reading list and do close readings of the texts. Students participate in readings, both on campus and off, and are featured during the week-long Writers Festival and the monthly Written/Spoken reading series. The course is workshop-driven, with students sharing new and revised work each week.

Prerequisite: Senior.