

ENGLISH WRITING

ENGWRT 0410 INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING 3 cr.

Offers the opportunity to experiment with forms of poetry and fiction and to read and discuss from a writer's point of view contemporary writing in these genres.

Prerequisite: ENGCOMP 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: ENGCOMP 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: ENGCOMP 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: ENGCOMP 0020.

ENGWRT 0550 INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM 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 0520.

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: PSY 0010 and at least one ENGWRT course.

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: None.

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.

Prerequisite: 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.

Prerequisites: ENGWRT 0520; ENGWRT 1010.

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 0530.

ENGWRT 1250 FORMAL POETRY WRITING 3 cr.

Reviews free verse and then will introduce the student to various verse forms of poetry. While examples from many time periods will be studied, the primary focus will be on the poets of the new formalism. Students will write in free verse and then in various other 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 0530.

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 0530.

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.

Introduces students to the basics of magazine writing -- find ideas, researching, analyzing markets reporting, writing and rewriting. Students criticize both class-produced and professionally-written work, assess markets and adjust their writing to the needs of those markets.

Prerequisite: 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.

Prerequisite: 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.

Prerequisite: ENGWRT 0410 or 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.

Prerequisite: Senior.