

ENGLISH: CREATIVE WRITING CONCENTRATION (BA)

Program Description

Paying deep attention to how humans use language and cultural signs is an ethical and spiritual discipline, one that teaches intellectual humility even as it empowers us to transfigure the world. Our programs in creative writing and literature foster each student's capacity for empathetic understanding, imaginative insight, and compelling wordcraft. By exploring cultural productions (literature, film, technologies, social movements) of various peoples and time periods, our students learn how to wrestle—rigorously, inventively, and fearlessly—with complex human questions about race and class, gender and sexuality, faith and truth, and material Christian practices. By the time they graduate, students will have had extensive training in charitable critical thinking, analytical interpretation, persuasive argumentation, and intercultural competencies. These skills prepare students for a wide range of careers in areas such as publishing, marketing, and digital media; creative arts and entertainment; education and library science; law and governance; social advocacy and civil rights policy; medicine, environment, and other sciences; counseling, social work, and ministry; business and non-profits.

English Major: Creative Writing Concentration

The creative writing concentration of the English major gives students the opportunity to take multiple workshops in fiction and creative non-fiction. These courses focus particularly on questions of literary craft: how do certain author choices affect the reader? How might imagery and indirection, metaphor and ambiguity, communicate more powerfully than attempts to simply "say what you mean"? And how do writers build a supportive workshoping community, one that promotes disciplined creativity and fruitful criticism?

Both concentrations of the English major are well-suited for a wide variety of careers. The creative writing concentration is especially appropriate for students interested in pursuing a Master of Fine Arts and/or a career in imaginative writing.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the English major, students should be able to

1. Interpret texts and cultural artifacts using "close reading," a method of literary and cultural analysis that attends to a work's genre, its linguistic and aesthetic features, and its effects on readers
2. Place literature and other media in a historical context, understanding how any text (and its criticism) is part of a "long conversation" over time and across space
3. Identify ways that texts can enforce, resist, or ameliorate problematic social systems of power
4. Articulate the value of literary ways of knowing, especially in regard to metaphor, ambiguity, irony, paradox, and mystery
5. Identify various literary and rhetorical strategies for putting Christian values in conversation with other religious and social perspectives
6. Produce analytical writing that asserts a clear and significant claim, marshals compelling evidence, charitably anticipates and addresses alternative interpretations, and responsibly integrates and cites researched sources

7. Articulate the value of recursive processes of drafting, revising, and sentence-level editing, whether in critical or creative writing

Entering and Completing the Major

In order to earn a degree, you must complete at least one academic major. SPU encourages students to explore various academic paths, so if you change your mind about a major, or want to include an additional program, you are able to do so, as outlined below.

Note that the University encourages you to enter your chosen major(s) as soon as you have determined it and are eligible to join it, especially by the start of your junior year. Students who transfer as juniors and seniors should enter a major within their first two quarters at SPU.

- If this is your first quarter at SPU and you identified a major in this department as your first choice on your application for admission to the University, you have gained entry to the major. To change or add a major, follow these instructions (<https://spu.atlassian.net/l/cp/a3th1keb>).
- If you are an SPU student with an SPU cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, follow these instructions (<https://spu.atlassian.net/l/cp/a3th1keb>) to enter a major in this department.
- The University requires a grade of C- or better in all classes that apply to a major; however, programs may require higher minimum grades in specific courses. You may repeat an SPU course only once for a higher grade.
- To advance in this program, meet with your faculty advisor regularly to discuss your grades, course progression, and other indicators of satisfactory academic progress. If your grades or other factors indicate that you may not be able to successfully complete the major or minor, your faculty advisor can work with you to explore options, which may include choosing a different major.
- You must complete the major requirements that are in effect in the SPU Undergraduate Catalog for the year you enter the major.

English: Creative Writing Concentration (BA)

65 Credits Minimum, Including 30 Upper Division (UD)¹

Code	Title	Credits
Core Requirements		
ENG 2225	Literary Interpretation	5
ENG 3100	Wordcraft: Grammar & Style	5
ENG 3225	Critical Practice	5
ENG 4899	Senior Capstone in English	5
Section Credits Required		20
Creative Writing Core		
ENG 2215	Imaginative Writing	5
Select one Poetry Studies course: ²		5
ENG 2221	Good Poems	
ENG 3348	Romantic Literature ³	
ENG 4823	The Poem	
Select one Narrative Studies course: ²		5
ENG 2223	Fantasy and Science Fiction	
ENG 2248	International Fiction	
ENG 3311	Elements of Narrative	
ENG 3325	Film and Story	

ENG 3550	Gothic Literature	
ENG 3351	Victorian Literature ⁴	
ENG 4162	Postmodern Literature ⁵	
ENG 4822	The Novel	
ENG 4824	The Short Story	
Section Credits Required		15
Workshops ⁶		
Select two of the following:		10
ENG 3317	Workshop in Writing Fiction	
ENG 3318	Creative Nonfiction	
ENG 4317	Advanced Fiction Writing	
Section Credits Required		10
Literary Histories ²		
Select two of the following:		10
ENG 2251	English Literature: Beginnings through Milton	
ENG 2252	English Literature: Restoration through Victorian	
ENG 2253	American Literature: Beginnings to 1900	
ENG 3332	African American Literature	
ENG 3710	19th Century American Literature	
ENG 3715	20th Century American Literature	
ENG 3840	Lewis and Tolkien	
ENG 4152	Modernist Literature	
ENG 4445	Shakespeare	
ENG 4449	Jane Austen	
ENG 4825	The Essay	
Section Credits Required		10
Culture & Power ²		
Select two of the following:		10
ENG 1220	Film and Faith	
ENG 2234	Literature by Women	
ENG 3003	Literature and Medicine	
ENG 3004	Literature, Gender, and Sexuality	
ENG 3330	Native American Literature	
ENG 3331	Race Riots & Uprisings	
ENG 3333	Asian American Literature	
ENG 3334	United States Multi-Ethnic Literature	
ENG 3339	United States Latinx Literature	
ENG 3380	African Literature	
ENG 3381	Middle East: Film and Literature	
ENG 3382	South Africa: Stages of Protest and Democracy	
ENG 3383	Arab Spring: Gender, Islam, Democracy	
ENG 3384	US Imperialism in Asia & Pacific Islands	
ENG 4172	Environmental Literature	
ENG 4451	Toni Morrison	
Section Credits Required		10
Total Credits		65

¹ To fulfill the minimum requirement of 30 UD credits, students must be sure to take at least six courses at the 3000- or 4000-level within the major.

² Depending on topic, ENG 4950 Special Topics may fulfill Poetry Studies, Narrative Studies, Literary Histories, or Culture & Power.

³ May fulfill Literary Histories if not used for Poetry Studies.

⁴ May fulfill Literary Histories if not used for Narrative Studies.

⁵ May fulfill Culture & Power if not used for Narrative Studies.

⁶ One of the following courses may fulfill Narrative Studies if not used to complete the Workshops requirement:

- ENG 3318 Creative Nonfiction
- ENG 4317 Advanced Fiction Writing

Suggested Course Sequence

Undecided Students

- If you're undecided about whether you want to commit to the English Major Creative Writing Concentration, in your freshman year you could either:
 - Take ENG 2215 Imaginative Writing as an introduction to the Creative Writing concentration (this course also fulfills the Ways of Knowing Arts requirement), OR
 - Take an English literature course that also meets the Ways of Knowing Humanities requirement:

Code	Title	Credits
Freshman Year Options for Undecided Students		
ENG 1110	Literature and Faith	5
ENG 1220	Film and Faith	5
ENG 2215	Imaginative Writing	5
ENG 2221	Good Poems	5
ENG 2223	Fantasy and Science Fiction	5
ENG 2234	Literature by Women	5
ENG 2248	International Fiction	5
ENG 2500	Media and Cultural Studies	5
ENG 3334	United States Multi-Ethnic Literature	5

Committed English Majors

- All English majors are strongly encouraged to take ENG 2225 Literary Interpretation as early as possible: the writing, research and interpretive skills covered in that course will help ensure success in all other ENG courses.
- All English majors are strongly encouraged to take ENG 3100 Wordcraft: Grammar & Style in their sophomore year.
- Students committed to the Creative Writing concentration are strongly encouraged to take ENG 2215 Imaginative Writing as early as possible so they can complete their chosen workshops in a timely fashion.

Future Teachers

- Please note that students who want to become high school English teachers should **complete the Literature concentration**, not the Creative Writing concentration.

Additional Notes

- **Course Availability:** Each of the core courses for the English major (ENG 2225 Literary Interpretation, ENG 3100 Wordcraft: Grammar & Style, ENG 3225 Critical Practice, and ENG 4899 Senior Capstone in English) is offered only once per year. ENG 3100 Wordcraft and ENG 3225 may alternate years, depending on enrollment needs.
- **Upper Division Credits:** As you select your electives for the English major, please ensure that you will complete enough upper-division

courses (3000- and 4000-level) to meet the minimum requirement of 30 upper division credits in the major.

- **Employment Readiness:** GS 3001 Internship and Job Search Strategies is strongly recommended for all majors.
- **Transfer Students:** focus on taking 3000- and 4000-level courses to ensure you will have enough upper division credits to graduate in your planned time frame.