

ENGLISH CREATIVE WRITING MINOR

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 Creative Writing Minor

The English creative writing minor gives students the opportunity to take multiple workshops in the areas of poetry, 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 workshop community, one that promotes disciplined creativity and fruitful criticism?

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the English minor, 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 Minor

In order to earn a degree, you must complete at least one academic major. Minors are not required except for students in the Professional Studies (BA). SPU encourages students to explore various academic paths, including minors, so if you change your mind about a minor or want to include an additional minor, you are able to do so as outlined below.

Note that the University encourages you to enter your chosen minor(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 minor within their first two quarters at SPU.

- If this is your first quarter at SPU, request entrance to your minor in Banner by following these instructions (<https://spu.atlassian.net/l/cp/Th4S0jCE>).
- If you are an SPU student with an SPU cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, follow these instructions (<https://spu.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/OTR/pages/179077187/Major+Minor+and+Concentration+Application+Instructions>) to enter a minor in this department.
- The University requires a grade of C- or better in all classes that apply to a minor; 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 minor, your faculty advisor can work with you to explore options, which may include choosing a different minor.
- You must complete the minor requirements that are in effect in the SPU Undergraduate Catalog for the year you enter the minor.

English Creative Writing Minor

30 Credits Minimum, Including 15 Upper Division (UD)

Code	Title	Credits
Core Requirements		
ENG 2215	Imaginative Writing	5
ENG 3100	Wordcraft: Grammar & Style	5
Section Credits Required		10
Workshop Requirements		
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 ¹		
Select one of the following:		5
ENG 2221	Good Poems	
ENG 2251	English Literature: Beginnings through Milton	
ENG 2252	English Literature: Restoration through Victorian	
ENG 2253	American Literature: Beginnings to 1900	
ENG 3311	Elements of Narrative	
ENG 3325	Film and Story	
ENG 3332	African American Literature	
ENG 3348	Romantic Literature	

ENG 3550	Gothic Literature	
ENG 3351	Victorian 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 4822	The Novel	
ENG 4823	The Poem	
ENG 4824	The Short Story	
ENG 4825	The Essay	
Section Credits Required		5
Culture & Power ¹		
Select one of the following:		5
ENG 1220	Film and Faith	
ENG 2223	Fantasy and Science Fiction	
ENG 2234	Literature by Women	
ENG 2248	International Fiction	
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 4162	Postmodern Literature	
ENG 4172	Environmental Literature	
ENG 4451	Toni Morrison	
Section Credits Required		5
Total Credits		30

¹ Depending on topic, ENG 4950 Special Topics may fulfill Literary Histories or Culture & Power.