

Why Study Creative Writing?

The variety of creative writing courses available at TRU has reached new levels – giving students the opportunity to study and practice drama, fiction, and poetry writing, as well as various sub-genres, at both the beginner and advanced levels. Faculty who are themselves award-winning writers give hands-on, personal attention, and the lecture/discussion/workshop format of classes provides students the best opportunities to increase their imaginative skills and writing techniques.

The e-evolution in publishing means that more stories, poems, and plays than ever are finding readers. Through the Creative Writing Minor at TRU, up-and-coming writers have the chance to get credit for their concentration of studies in writing courses. The Creative Writing Minor may be combined with a variety of majors to produce a unique, flexible, and transcriptable cross-section of competencies.

A Minor in Creative Writing will open doors to careers in freelance writing, professional writing, and education, and enhance creative expression in any discipline or profession.

How do I register?

Details about making an appointment with an English Advisor will be posted on the EML website, or contact the Co-Chair of the English Advising Committee, Nick Pawliuk: npawliuk@tru.ca. Whenever possible, a faculty advisor will act as a “mentor” or counsellor.

The Creative Writing Minor

Creative Writing Minor

The Creative Writing Minor challenges students to tap into their creativity, teaches them the elements of form through critique of contemporary works, and provides them with the opportunity to practice writing in the following genres: short fiction, novel, poetry, playwriting, and screenwriting.

A Minor in Creative Writing could nicely complement many Majors programs across campus, especially an English Major. The skill set would be particularly useful in the following professions: creative or freelance writer; teaching (elementary or secondary); publishing industry (printed book, magazine, newspaper, or on-line); public relations, and advertising. The Minor requires a minimum of 30 credits, in the following manner:

After completing six credits of first-year English (with English 1150, Introduction to Creative Writing, being strongly recommended but not required), the student will then take six credits of second-year Creative Writing from the following list:

ENGL 2060 Creative Writing - Fiction

ENGL 2070 Creative Writing - Drama

ENGL 2080 Creative Writing - Poetry

Following successful completion of these six credits, the student may declare his/her intention of completing a Minor in Creative Writing.

The student will then complete 18 upper-level credits.

Students must take at least 4 of the following *Core Courses*:

ENGL 3080 Personal Expression

ENGL 3330 Special Topics in Creative Writing

ENGL 3340 Writing Speculative Fiction

ENGL 3360 Advanced Short Fiction Writing

ENGL 3370 Novel Writing

ENGL 3380 Advanced Poetry Writing

ENGL 3390 Advanced Drama Writing

ENGL 3410 Screenwriting

ENGL 4760 Editing and Publishing

Students must take at least one course from the following list:

ENGL 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3350, 3550, 3650, 3660, 3710, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3810, 3820, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3890, 3910, 3940, 4000, 4040, 4130, 4140, 4150, 4160, 4210, 4220, 4240, 4250, 4260, 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370, 4430, 4440, 4450, 4460, 4470, 4510, 4600, 4610, 4770, 4780, 4790

Students may take one course from the following list:

JOUR 4210, JOUR 4310, JOUR 4590

NEW for 2023! Major in Theatre and Creative Writing. More information coming soon!

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

ENGL 1150

Introduction to Creative Writing

This course will introduce three of the four following genres of creative writing - poetry, fiction, drama and creative non-fiction. Emphasis will be placed on image, voice, character, setting, narrative, and development and revision. Instructor: Sheba Rahim

FALL 2022

ENGL 1150 Introduction to Creative Writing

This course will introduce three of the four following genres of creative writing - poetry, fiction, drama and creative non-fiction. Emphasis will be placed on image, voice, character, setting, narrative, and development and revision. (Also offered in **Winter 2023**)

Instructor: Brendan Bowles

ENGL 2070 Creative Writing: Drama

This course focuses on the basic elements of writing for the stage: character, structure, conflict, dialogue and theme.

We will begin by looking at published works by contemporary playwrights, both local and international, seeing what these works can show us about the mechanics and possibilities of writing for the stage. We will also take a class outing to go see one or two student plays at TRU, which we will have read and studied ahead of time, in order to think about how the translation of plays happens, from page to stage. After studying published authors, we will turn to student work. Each student will have the chance to workshop one play and receive feedback on that writing from their peers, as well as from the instructor. By the end of the course students will have written and revised a performable short play.

Instructor: Brendan Bowles

ENGL 3080 Advanced Composition: Personal Expression

English 3080 focuses on the rhetoric of personal expression, especially narration, comparison, and research. In practical terms, we will explore how a focus on personal expression can be used to improve both writing and presentation skills at an advanced level. Course activities will include reading, discussing, and examining texts in the genre, engaging in exploratory exercises around the process of personal and academic writing, researching, composing smaller essays, and revising a larger essay that will become a final major project and presentation.

Instructor: Jan Duerden

ENGL 3360 Creative Writing: Advanced Short Fiction Writing

In this course, we'll be looking at the author and her work as two separate but interrelated things. We'll combine short stories with reflections by writers on their own writing and processes for creative writing. We'll also have a Zoom visit

(or two) by working authors in which we can ask them our craft questions directly. Paired with early discussion of published writing will be generative exercises in flash fiction. In the second half of the course, we will workshop short stories by students with an eye toward revision. At the end of our time together, students will write their own mini-craft essays about some element of the short story, and how they see that element operating in their own works, as well as in the work of one published author we have studied. We will have moved, in short, from writing and reflections on writing by published authors, to your own writing and your own reflections on that writing.

Instructor: Brendan Bowles

WINTER 2023

ENGL 2060 Creative Writing: Fiction

English 2060 provides an opportunity for students to cultivate skills which can lessen the experience of writer's block, enhance habits of mindful observation, and open the writer to moments of creative insight. Amid an atmosphere of creative play, this course emphasizes practice in writing realistic literary fiction, and focuses on the short story form. There are several course components including lecture, in-class developmental exercises on techniques of fiction writing, analyses of short fiction, online practice exercises, in-class story workshoping, and peer review practice. The course is based on the premise that short story writing is a craft that requires continual practice.

Instructor: Nina Johnson

ENGL 3370 Novel Writing

Novels have been described as "loose baggy monsters" (James) and "like a spider's web, attached ever so lightly perhaps, but still attached to life at all four corners" (Woolf). Their death has frequently been proclaimed, and writing them described as "a terrible experience, during which the hair often falls out and the teeth decay" (F. O'Connor). Despite skepticism about the novel and novel writing, this course maintains that the novel remains a vibrant form and writing novels more necessary than ever before. Through readings from canonical as well as contemporary novels, along with discussions of techniques, including plotting, structure, character development, dialogue, and orchestration, students will gain an understanding of how novels work. They will then plan and begin writing their own literary novels, keeping questioning of the world at the forefront of their minds and hearts. We will be focusing on stories about the climate crisis and about our relations with the natural world.

Instructor: George Johnson

Programs in English

Creative Writing Minor

2022-2023



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