

Creative Writing

UC Berkeley Undergraduate & Interdisciplinary Studies



Office of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies (UGIS)
Undergraduate Division
College of Letters and Science
University of California, Berkeley
301 Campbell Hall, #2922
Berkeley, CA 94720-2922

<http://ls.berkeley.edu/ugis/creative/>

Revised: August 2006

The Creative Writing Minor Student Handbook

The Creative Writing Minor is an interdepartmental minor offered by the Office of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies in the Undergraduate Division of the College of Letters and Science. Interested students in any major may earn a minor in Creative Writing by completing **three upper division creative writing courses and two upper division literature courses** from any department that offers them. (See Requirements and Declaring the Minor for more information.)

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PARTICIPATING CREATIVE WRITING MINOR FACULTY

Melanie Abrams (Novelist, Writer) - English
Alfred Arteaga (Poet, Critic) - Ethnic Studies
Vikram Chandra (Novelist, Writer) - English
Thomas Farber (Novelist, Writer, Publisher) - English
Mel Gordon (Playwright, Critic) - Dramatic Art
Robert Hass (Poet, Critic) - English
Lyn Hejinian (Poet, Writer, Translator) - English
Georgina Kleege (Essayist, Novelist) - English
J. Mira Kopell (Screenwriter) - Film Studies
Maiana Minahal (Poet, Performer) - African American Studies
Bharati Mukherjee (Novelist, Writer) - English
Chris Nealon (Poet, Critic) - English
Geoffrey G. O'Brien (Poet, Critic) - English
John Shoptaw (Poet, Librettist, Critic) – English

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

WEBSITE: <http://ls.berkeley.edu/ugis/creative/>

LOCATION: **311 Campbell Hall**

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: **(510) 642-5640 or (510) 642-0108**

MAILING ADDRESS: Creative Writing Minor
University of California, Berkeley
301 Campbell Hall, #2922
Berkeley, CA 94720-2922

CONTACT: **Laura Demir, the Creative Writing Minor Coordinator**, may be reached at (510) 642-5640 or demir@berkeley.edu. Please read the handbook completely before contacting the office.

NEWS AND UPDATES: Changes to the Creative Writing Minor and notices of campus seminars and workshops related to Creative Writing are available via the **Creative Writing Minor News Online**. To subscribe to this newsletter, email the Creative Writing Minor Coordinator at demir@berkeley.edu. You can also check the **Creative Writing Minor bulletin board outside 353 Campbell Hall** for flyers on courses and events related to Creative Writing.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

Five upper-division courses are required, consisting of three courses in creative writing and two courses in literature. These courses may be taken in any of the departments that offer them.

- All five courses must be taken for a letter grade.
- At least three of the five courses and at least two of the three writing courses must be taken at Berkeley.
- Only one course may be used to satisfy both a minor and a major requirement.
- Only one course may be used to satisfy two minor programs' requirements.
- A minimum overall grade point average of 2.0 in upper division courses is required for the minor.
- Work for the minor must be completed within the 130-unit maximum limit for graduation.

See Courses That Satisfy the Minor Requirements for a list of all applicable courses offered by all participating departments. Courses not on this list may be counted toward the Minor with the approval of the Creative Writing Minor Faculty Adviser.

DECLARING THE MINOR

First you take the required courses; then you declare the minor in the semester you intend to graduate. You declare the Minor in Creative Writing by taking the following documents to the minor coordinator in the Creative Writing Minor office (311 Campbell Hall) no later than the last day of classes in the semester in which you intend to graduate:

- 1) your transcripts;*
- 2) a completed PETITION FOR CONFIRMATION OF MINOR PROGRAM;
- 3) a list of the five courses you wish to use to satisfy the Creative Writing Minor, identifying any course that overlaps with another major or minor and including your name, local telephone number and email address in case they are needed if questions arise regarding your petition.

The minor petition will be reviewed for approval. Upon approval, the petition will be sent to the Registrar's office. The registrar will include the completion of the minor on your transcript. It will appear only in the "memorandum" section of your transcript, not on your diploma.

* Official transcripts are acceptable, but not required. Transcripts printed through the 'Bear Facts' system are acceptable. Please elect to have your name printed on these transcripts. If you are taking courses for the minor in the semester you plan to graduate, print a copy of your current registration through the Bear Facts system.

COURSES THAT SATISFY THE MINOR REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

Courses in both writing and literature are sometimes listed in the General Catalog under very general headings ("Topics in _____" or "Special Topics"). Students may be allowed to include courses that are not on the following list with the approval of the Creative Writing Minor Faculty Adviser. It is the responsibility of the student to provide the Faculty Adviser with documentary evidence to support the claim of course eligibility.

To determine if a course from the list below is being offered during a specific semester, visit the Online Schedule of Classes at <http://schedule.berkeley.edu/>.

COURSES IN CREATIVE WRITING:

NOTE: **Three** courses are required from this list. **Two of these three** courses must be taken at Berkeley. **All three** courses must be taken for a letter grade.

African American Studies

156AC. Poetry for the People: Introduction to the Art of Poetry
158A. Poetry for the People: The Writing and Teaching of Poetry
158B. Poetry for the People Practicum

American Studies

C174. Visual Autobiography

Chicano Studies

149. Creative Writing

English

141. Modes of Writing (Exposition, Fiction, Verse, Etc.)
143A. Short Fiction
143B. Verse
143E. Playwriting
143N. Prose Nonfiction
143T. Poetry Translation Workshop
C143V. Visual Autobiography

Ethnic Studies

110. Narrative Writing

Film Studies

180A-B. Screenwriting

French

139. Creative Writing in French

Native American Studies

150. Native American Narratives

Spanish

102C. Creative Writing in Spanish

Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies

139. Playwriting

Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies

C135. Visual Autobiography

Visual Studies

185AC. Visual Autobiography

C185A. Visual Autobiography

COURSES IN LITERATURE:

NOTE: **Two** courses are required from this list. **Both** of these courses must be taken for a letter grade.

African American Studies

142A. Third World Cinema

142B. The Cross-Cultural Images of American Minorities in Film

142D. Race and American Film

C143A. Performance: An African American Perspective

C143B. Research-to-Performance Laboratory

C143C. Black Theatre Workshop

150B. African American Literature 1920 to Present

C151A. African American Plays from 1858 to 1959

151B. Contemporary African American Drama

C151B. Contemporary African American Drama

C152C. African American Dramatic Literature: Forms and Styles

C153A. Images of African American Women in Literature: Slavery to the 20th-Century

C153B. Contemporary Images of African American Women in Literature

154. Negritude: French African Literature

155. Literature of the Caribbean: Significant Themes

160. African Literatures

161. African Theater

162. Caribbean Literature by Women Authors: *Marasa*

163. African Literature by Women

American Studies

C152. Native American Literature

Anthropology

160. Forms of Folklore

C160. Forms of Folklore

161. Narrative Folklore

162. Topics in Folklore

163AC. American Folklore

Arabic

104B. Classical Arabic Prose

111A. Survey of Arabic Literature (in Arabic)

Asian American Studies

171. Asian Americans in Film and Video

172. Asian American Literature

175. Contemporary Narratives on the Philippines and the United States

176. Genre in Asian American Literature

- 178. Gender and Sexuality in Asian American Literature and Culture
- 179. Transnational Narratives by Asian Americans
- 180. Chinese - Language Literature and Film on the Immigrant Experience
- 181. Chinese American Literature
- 183. Korean American Literature
- 187. Literature of the South Asian Diaspora

Buddhism

- 124. Buddhism and Film

Catalan

- 102. Readings in Catalan

Celtic Studies

- 105B. Readings in Old and Middle Irish
- 119A-B. Welsh and Arthurian Literature of the Middle Ages
- 125. Irish Literature in Translation
- 138. Irish Literature
- 139. Irish Literature
- 146A-B. Medieval Welsh Language and Literature
- C168. Celtic Mythology and the Oral Tradition

Chicano Studies

- 135. Chicano/Latin Film
- 141. Chicana Feminist Writers and Discourse
- 142. Major Chicano Writers
- 143. Chicano and Latin American Literature
- 148. Chicano/Latin Theatre Workshop

Chinese

- 101. Fourth-Year Readings – Literature
- 120. Ancient Chinese Prose
- 122. Ancient Chinese Poetry
- 132. Readings in Early Medieval Literature
- 134. Readings in Classical Chinese Poetry
- 136. Readings in Medieval Prose
- 138. Readings in Chinese Drama
- 140. Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts
- 155. Readings in Vernacular Chinese Literature
- 156. Modern Chinese Literature
- 157. Contemporary Chinese Literature
- 180. The Story of the Stone

Classics

- 100A. Greek Literature
- 100B. Latin Literature
- 124. Classical Poetics

Comparative Literature

- 100. Introduction to Comparative Literature
- 120. The Biblical Tradition in Western Literature
- 151. The Ancient Mediterranean World
- 152. The Middle Ages
- 153. The Renaissance
- 154. 18th- and 19th- Century Literature

- 155. The Modern Period
- 156. Fiction and Culture of the Americas
- C159. The Novel in India
- 165. Myth and Literature
- 185. Gender, Sexuality, and Culture
- 190. Senior Seminar in Comparative Literature

Dutch

- 140. Topics in Dutch Literature
- 160. Literature of the Lowlands in English Translation
- 161. Masterpieces in Dutch and Flemish Literature in English Translation
- 162. The Modern Short Story in Holland and Flanders in English Translation
- 163. Women Writers in the Netherlands and Flanders in English Translation
- 164. The Indonesian Connection: Dutch Literature about the Indies in English Translation
- 166. Anne Frank and After: Dutch Literature of the Holocaust in English Translation

East Asian Languages and Cultures

- 100. Reading Alternative Space
- 102. Fantastic Histories

English

- 105. Anglo-Saxon England
- C107. The English Bible as Literature
- 110. Medieval Literature
- 111. Chaucer
- 112. Middle English Literature
- 114A-B. English Drama
- 115A-B. The English Renaissance
- 116. Backgrounds of English Literature in the Continental Renaissance
- 117A-T. Shakespeare
- 118. Milton
- 119. The Augustan Age
- 120. The Age of Johnson
- 121. Romantic Period
- 122. Victorian Period
- 125A-E. The English Novel
- 126. British Literature: 1900-1945
- 127. Modern Poetry
- 128. Modern Drama
- 130A-D. American Literature
- 131. American Poetry
- 132. American Novel
- 133A. African American Literature and Culture Before 1917
- 133B. African American Literature and Culture Since 1917
- 133T. Topics in African American Literature and Culture
- 134. Contemporary Literature
- 135AC. Literature of American Cultures
- C136. Topics in American Studies
- 137A. Chicana/o Literature and Culture to 1910
- 137B. Chicana/o Literature and Culture Since 1910
- 137T. Topics in Chicana/o Literature and Culture
- 138. Studies in World Literature in English
- 139. The Cultures of English
- 150. Senior Seminar
- 152. Women Writers

- 165. Special Topics
- 166. Special Topics
- 166AC: Special Topics in American Cultures
- 171. Literature and Sexual Identity
- 172. Literature and Psychology
- 173. The Language and Literature of Films
- 175. Literature and Disability
- 176. Literature and Popular Culture
- 177. Literature and Philosophy
- 178. British and American Folklore
- 179. Literature and Linguistics
- 180A-Z. Genres of Literature

Ethnic Studies

- 100. Comparative Ethnic Literature in America
- 103B. Ethnicity and the Narrative
- 128. Film-Video Images of Communities of Color: Analysis and Video Production

Film Studies

- 100. History of Film Theory
- 105. Senior Seminar
- 108. Special Topics in Film Genre
- 135AC. Film of American Cultures
- 140. Special Topics in Film
- 151. Auteur Theory
- 160. National Cinema
- 185. The Language of Cinema

French

- 112A-B. Medieval Literature
- 114A-B. Late Medieval Literature
- 116A-B. 16th-Century Literature: Margot to Montaigne
- 117A-B. 17th-Century Literature
- 118A-B. 18th-Century Literature
- 119A-B. 19th-Century Literature
- 120A-B. 20th-Century Literature
- 121A-B. Literary Themes, Genres, and Structures
- 123. Prose Fiction
- 124A. Modern Theatre
- 126. Senior Seminar
- 140A-D. French Literature in English Translation
- 150A-B. Women in French Literature
- 151A-B. Francophone Literature
- 152. Quebecois Literature and Culture
- 160A-B. French Historical Writing
- 170. French Films
- 173. Linguistics and Literature
- 174. Music and Literature
- 175A-B. Literature and the Visual Arts
- 177A-B. History and Criticism of Film
- 178A-B. Studies in French Film
- 185. Literature and Colonialism

Gender and Women's Studies

- 125. Women in Film

- 126. Film, Feminism, and the Avant-Garde
- C146. Cultural Representations of Sexualities: Queer Literacy Culture
- C146A. Cultural Representations of Sexualities: Queer Literacy Culture
- C153A. Images of African American Women in Literature: Slavery to the 20th Century
- C153B. Contemporary Images of African American Women in Literature

German

- C106. Literacy through Literature
- 108. Literary Translation
- 110. The Literature of the Middle Ages
- 112. Early Modern Literature
- 123. From 1800 to the Present
- 131. Goethe
- 140. Romanticism
- 141. German Literature and the French Revolution
- 145. Jewish Writers
- 148. Topics in Narrative
- 151. 18th- to 20th-Century German Poetry
- 152. Modern Literature
- 154. German Literature of the 1970s
- 155. Kafka and Modernism
- 163. "Vaeterliteratur": The Quest for Identity
- 166. Gender Perspectives in Literature
- 167. Cultural Criticism
- 175B. 20th-Century Poetry
- 185. Representations and Memory of the Holocaust in Film
- 186. Transnational Cinemas
- 187. Comedy and Community
- 188. German Kabarett

Greek

- 100. Plato and Attic Prose
- 101. Homer
- 102. Drama and Society
- 105. The Greek New Testament
- 115. Archaic Poetry
- 116. Greek Drama
- 117. Hellenistic Poets
- 120. Herodotus
- 121. Thucydides
- 122. Attic Oratory
- 123. Plato and Aristotle

Hebrew

- 104A-B. Modern Hebrew Literature and Culture

Hindi-Urdu

- 101A-B. Readings in Modern Hindi

Interdisciplinary Studies Field

- 100C. Word and Image
- C100C. Word and Image
- C160. Forms of Folklore

Italian Studies

- 103. History of Italian Culture
- 104. Reading Italian Literature
- 109. Dante's *Commedia* (in Italian)
- 110. Literature and Culture of the 13th- and 14th-Centuries
- 111. 15th-Century Literature and Culture
- 112. 16th-Century Literature and Culture
- 113. 17th-Century Literature and Culture
- 114. 18th-Century Literature and Culture
- 115. 19th-Century Literature and Culture
- 117. 20th-Century Literature
- 120. Topics in Italian Studies
- 130A-B. Dante's (in English)
- 163. Special Topics in Italian Literature
- 170. Italian Cinema: History, Genres, Authors (in English)
- 175. Film and Literature (in English)

Japanese

- 100A-B. Advanced Japanese
- 101. Fourth-Year Japanese A
- 130. Classical Japanese Poetry
- 132. Pre-modern Japanese Diary (Nikki) Literature
- 140. Heian Prose
- 142. Japanese Medieval Prose
- 144. Edo Literature
- 155. Modern Japanese Literature
- 159. Contemporary Japanese Literature
- 170. Classical Japanese Literature in Translation
- 173. Modern Japanese Literature in Translation
- 180. Ghosts and the Modern Literary Imagination
- 185. Introduction to Japanese Cinema
- 186. Japanese Drama in Translation
- 187. Japanese Performance Forms

Khmer

- 101A-B. Readings in Traditional Khmer Texts

Korean

- 101. Fourth-Year Readings – Literature
- 130. Genre and Occasion in Traditional Poetry
- 140. Narrating Persons and Objects in Traditional Korean Prose
- 150. Modern Korean Poetry
- 155. Modern Korean Fiction
- 157. Contemporary Korean Literature
- 180. Critical Approaches to Modern Korean Literature

Latin

- 100. Republican Prose
- 101. Vergil
- 102. Lyric and Society
- 115. Roman Drama
- 116. Lucretius, Vergil's Georgics
- 117. Elegiac Poetry
- 118. Satire
- 119. Latin Epic

- 120. Latin Prose to AD 14
- 121. Tacitus
- 122. Post-Augustan Prose
- 123. Petronius and Apuleius
- 140. Medieval Latin
- C140. Medieval Latin
- 155A-B. Readings in Medieval Latin

Legal Studies

- 117. Representation of Law in American Fiction

Music

- 128Q. The European/American Art Song

Native American Studies

- C152. Native American Literature
- 154. Mythic Tribal Literature
- 158. Native Americans and the Cinema

Near Eastern Studies

- 105A-B. Ancient Mesopotamian Documents and Literature
- 113. Gilgamesh: King, Hero and God
- 139. Modern Jewish Literature
- 152. Cultural Encounters in Modern Arabic Literature
- 153. The Medieval Frametale Genre: Its Hispano-Arabic Roots
- 155. Wonder and the Fantastic: *The Thousand and One Nights* in World Literary Imagination
- 162A-B. History of Persian Literature

Persian

- 101A-B. Selected Readings in Persian Literature
- 102A-B. Readings in Classical Persian Prose
- 103A-B. Classical Persian Poetry
- 104A-B. Contemporary Persian Literature

Portuguese

- 100. Introduction to Literary and Linguistic Analysis of Literary Texts
- 102. Readings in Portuguese
- 104. Introduction to Brazilian Literature
- 107A-B. Survey of Portuguese Literature
- 114. Contemporary Brazilian Novel
- 128. 20th-Century Brazilian Literature
- 134C. 20th-Century Latin American Fiction

Religious Studies

- C108. Scandinavian Myth and Religion
- C109. Celtic Mythology and Oral Tradition
- C119. The English Bible as Literature
- C165. Hindu Mythology
- C166. India's Great Epics: The Mahabharata and the Ramayana

Rhetoric

- 119. Genre in Film and Literature
- 121A-B. Rhetoric of Fiction
- 122. Rhetoric of Drama
- 124. Rhetoric of Poetry

- 125. Poetics and Poetry
- 127. Novel, Society and Politics
- 128. Novel into Film
- 133. Selected Topics in Film
- 135. Rhetoric of Narrative Genres in Nonliterate Societies
- 138. Rhetoric and Literature under the Roman Empire
- 139. Rhetoric of Autobiography
- 139AC. Autobiography and American Individualism
- 156. Rhetoric of the Political Novel
- 178. The Rhetoric of the Novel

Scandinavian

- 106. The Works of Hans Christian Andersen
- C107. The Plays of Ibsen
- C108. Strindberg
- C114. Word and Image
- 115. Studies in Drama and Film
- 116. Studies in Prose
- 120. The Novel in Scandinavia
- 125. Old Norse Literature
- 138. Topics in Russian and Soviet Film
- 150. Studies in Scandinavian Literature
- C160. Scandinavian Myth and Religion
- 165. Studies in Scandinavian Folklore
- 170. Arctic Folklore and Mythology in Nordic Lands

Slavic Languages and Literatures

- 131. Literature, Art, and Society in 20th Century Russia
- 132. Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and the English Novel
- 133. The Novel in Russia and the West
- 134A-F. Major Russian Authors
- 146. East/West Encounters: The Literatures of Orientalism
- 147. Slavic Folklore
- 149AC. Ideology and Ethnicity: Images of Soviet Russia in American Culture
- 151. Readings in Polish Literature
- 160. Survey in Czech Literature
- 161. Readings in Czech Literature
- 162. Topics in Czech Language and Literature
- 170. Survey of Yugoslav Literatures
- 171. Readings in Yugoslav Literatures
- 181 Readings in Russian Literature
- 188. Russian Prose

South and Southeast Asian Studies

- 141. Introduction to Thai Literature in Translation

South Asian

- 121. Classical Indian Literature in Translation
- C122. The Novel in India
- 124. Modern Indian Literature
- 138. Theatre in India
- 140. Hindu Mythology
- C140. Hindu Mythology
- C142. India's Great Epics: The Mahabharata and the Ramayana
- 143. Indian Romances

Southeast Asia

- 124. The Shadow-Play in Southeast Asia
- 128. Introduction to Modern Indonesian and Malaysian Literature
- 129. Mainland Southeast Asian Literature
- 130. Articulations of the Female in Indonesia

Spanish

- 104A-B. Survey of Spanish American Literature
- 107A-B. Survey of Spanish Literature
- 108. Spanish Ballads
- 109. Spanish Drama of the 16th- and 17th-Centuries
- 111A-B. Cervantes
- 114. The Contemporary Spanish American Novel
- 115. Spanish Poetry
- 117. The Picaresque Novel
- 123A-B. Modern Spanish Prose Fiction
- 130. 20th-Century Spanish American Poetry
- 131. The Spanish American Short Story
- 134. 20th-Century Latin American Fiction
- 135. Studies in Hispanic Literature
- 185. Senior Course in Hispanic Literature

Tamil

- 101A-B. Readings in Tamil

Thai

- Thai 100A-B. Intermediate Thai

Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies

- C107. Plays of Ibsen
- C108. Strindberg
- 120. 20th-Century Theory and Performance
- 126 Performance Literatures
- 127. Topics in Drama and Theater: 1918 to Present
- 128 Shakespeare in Performances
- C131A. African American Plays from 1858 to 1959
- C131B. Contemporary African American Drama
- C132. African American Dramatic Literature: Forms and Styles
- 162. Fundamentals of Stage Directing
- C183A. Performance: An African American Perspective
- C183B. Research-to-Performance Laboratory
- C183C. Black Theatre Workshop

Turkish

- 101A-B. Readings in Modern Turkish

Yiddish

- 103. Readings in Yiddish

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What if I took a course that actually involved a lot of creative writing, even though it was not listed as a Creative Writing course and does not show up on the list of acceptable courses?

A. Courses that are not included on the "Official" list of Creative Writing courses may be counted toward the Minor with the approval of the Creative Writing Minor Faculty Adviser. It is the student's responsibility to provide the Creative Writing Minor Faculty Adviser with the documents (course descriptions, syllabi, assignment sheets, etc.) that will show the nature of the course.

Q. What if I am a transfer student—will courses I took at another school count toward the Minor in Creative Writing here at Berkeley?

A. The Minor in Creative Writing is open to all students at Berkeley. You can take as many as two of the required upper division courses at another school, as long as at least two of your Creative Writing courses were taken here at Berkeley. All courses for the minor must be upper division and letter graded. Classes taken at a (two-year) community college will not be acceptable. "Reading and Composition" courses will not count toward the minor for the same reason.

Q. What if I am an English major? I thought you could not major and minor in the same subject.

A. The Minor in Creative Writing is open to all students at Berkeley. Since the Minor is not tied to any single department, students in all majors, including English, are eligible to participate.

Q. Do writing courses in the Ethnic Studies departments or in Journalism count toward the Creative Writing Minor?

A. Yes, applicable courses may be taken in any department that offers them.

Q. What about courses I take to fulfill other requirements—either breadth requirements, requirements within my major, or requirements within another minor? Can I count those courses toward the Minor in Creative Writing?

A. Yes, but only one course may be used to fulfill the Minor in Creative Writing and requirements within your major department. And, only one course may be used to fulfill the Minor in Creative Writing and requirements in another minor department. However, courses accepted for a minor program may also satisfy College breadth requirements, when appropriate.

Q. Will my diploma show that I have completed the minor?

A. No, the fact that you have completed a minor will appear in the "memorandum" section of your transcript only.

Q. What if I have other questions?

A. You should be able to find the answers to most of your questions in this student handbook or on the Creative Writing Minor website at <http://ls.berkeley.edu/ugis/creative/>. If you have read through all the information and still have questions, please contact the Creative Writing Minor Coordinator (demir@berkeley.edu or 510-642-5640) or the Faculty Adviser.