Writing

The English department offers a full range of courses in the writing of poetry, fiction, drama and various forms of nonfiction, as well as advanced courses in expository writing.

An English major with a special interest in writing may complete a major in English literature with a concentration in creative writing. Alternatively, a student completing the regular English major may count toward this major up to 9 upper-division units of classes designated Writing toward the English major.

The department also offers a minor in writing, which can be combined with any major, including the English major. In this latter case, students are advised to take English and American literature courses (designated L14 E Lit) exclusively for the English major and Writing courses (designated L13 Writing) exclusively for the writing minor.

Except where noted, students are expected to receive a grade of C or better in each course.

Website: http://english.artsci.wustl.edu

Faculty

For a list of affiliated faculty, please visit the Department of English faculty (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/english/#facultylink) page.

Majors

While the English department does not offer a writing major, they do offer the option of completing an English major with a creative writing concentration. To complete the major, students must take five creative writing courses, including at least three upper-division courses. Students will specialize in one particular genre — poetry, fiction or creative nonfiction — ultimately taking a three-course sequence in that genre (200-, 300- and 400-level) while taking at least one course outside this genre. The concentration will not change the requirements of the English major and thus requires 6 additional credit hours compared to a regular English major.

Students interested in majoring in English literature with a concentration in creative writing should visit the English (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/english/#majors) page of this Bulletin for additional information.

Minors

The Minor in Writing

The writing minor is fulfilled by completing 15 units of Writing courses, no more than 6 units of which can be taken at the 200 level. At least one of the five courses elected must be Writing 311 Exposition or Writing 312 Argumentation.

With department approval, up to 6 units of journalism courses in writing or editing offered in University College can be counted toward the minor. An off-campus internship (Writing 298 Journalism: Communications Internship) oriented toward writing may also be counted toward the minor. Regardless of level, at least 9 units counted toward the minor must be completed in regular courses home-based in Writing.

For undergraduate scholars in the Howard Nemerov Program, two semesters of the 200-level Nemerov seminar (L43 GeSt 211) may count as 3 units of 200-level work toward the writing minor. Two semesters of the 300-level Nemerov seminar may count as 3 units of 300-level work toward the writing minor. A maximum of 6 Howard Nemerov units may count toward the writing minor.

Students who wish to take a writing minor in addition to an English major are advised to take English and American literature courses (L14 E Lit) exclusively for the major and Writing courses (L13) exclusively for the minor. (Please note: 100-level L13 classes do not normally count toward the writing minor.) Students who wish to combine writing with their English major are encouraged to consider an English major with a concentration in creative writing (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/english/#majors).

Courses

Courses listed on this page include L13 Writing (p. 1) and L59 CWP (p. 6) (Writing Center). Please note: L59 classes and 100-level L13 classes do not normally count toward the writing minor.

Writing


L13 Writing 103 What is Justice?
This class seeks to develop the advanced reading, writing and research skills that students need in a university setting. It uses classical texts of the western tradition to investigate the question of justice and to develop arguable claims through the careful analysis of evidence.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 104 Writing Identity
Who are you? This simple question becomes ever more complicated the more closely you examine it. How should you define yourself? By ancestry, hometown, gender, cultural allegiance, ethnic background, nationality, sexual preference, social class, personal history, fashion sense, career aspirations, taste in music, or by some other category? This class will examine the complexities of identity as they have been expressed in a wide variety of modern literary (and some philosophical) writings, in order to develop the advanced reading, writing, and research skills that students need in a university setting.
L13 Writing 203 The Sentence in English
Though formal knowledge of English grammar is not always necessary for effective writing, learning it can help students understand how sentences are put together, and it can allow them to develop their own writing using a new set of skills. The Reed-Kellogg system of diagramming is a method of learning grammar by creating "pictures," or maps, of sentences. These pictures show the logical relations between words, phrases and clauses, and they illustrate the choices writers are making as they craft individual sentences. Using a recent textbook by Eugene Moutoux, we learn to diagram sentences both famous and ordinary, both contemporary and of historical interest. Our aims are (1) to learn both the "rules" and the peculiarities of English grammar, (2) to understand how the structure of a sentence can influence its meaning, and (3) to use this knowledge productively in crafting and revising our own prose. By the end of the course, students should be able to diagram just about any sentence in English, whatever the genre or time period, including their own. Extensive practice in writing and revising sentences gives students a consciousness of how grammar and syntax influence the meaning and effectiveness of their own writing.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 205 Writing the Visual World
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 211 Writing 2
This course invites students to pursue a writing project that centers on their own intellectual interests and that complicates their approaches to researched, creative and analytical work. Consult section description for details about specific class emphases. Limit: 12 students. Prerequisite: CWP 100 College Writing 1.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 212 Rhetoric and Power
The study of rhetoric, one of the original seven liberal arts, is perhaps more relevant today, in a world where diverse opinions reverberate 24/7 from television and the internet, than in ancient times when rhetors invented arguments to help people choose the best course of action when they disagreed about important political, religious, or social issues. How do we make our voices heard? How can we invent and present compelling written discourse? This course introduces students to common rhetorical principles and to the disciplinary history of rhetoric and compositional studies. Assignments in this class include rhetorical exercise in invention and craft, imitations, and varied compositions, ranging from the personal to critical, from the biographical to argumentative. We examine rhetorical principles (audience, context, kairos, exigency, ethos, pathos, logos, and so forth) that are employed, for example, not only in literary analysis but in law, politics, education and science. We aim for a mastery of craft and a refinement of thought.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 213 The Long Essay
This course is designed for skilled writers who want to bring more complexity and depth to their style and content. Emphasis is on the innovation that can occur when we give sustained interest to our subjects in a long work. The class is particularly well-suited to students who wish to produce extended works of creative nonfiction, honors theses, or artist statements.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 220 Creative Nonfiction Writing 1
A course designed to introduce students to the fundamental craft elements involved in writing creative nonfiction. While the course covers the major forms within the genre of creative nonfiction, including literary journalism, biography, profiles, nature writing and travel writing, special emphasis is given to personal essay and memoir. Prerequisite: CWP 100 College Writing 1.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 221 Fiction Writing 1
A course designed to introduce students to the fundamental craft elements involved in writing fiction. Prerequisite: CWP 100 College Writing 1.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 222 Poetry Writing 1
A course designed to introduce students to the fundamental craft elements involved in writing poetry. Prerequisite: Writing 1.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 224 Playwriting
An introductory course in playwriting. Limited to 8 students. Prerequisites: CWP 100 College Writing 1 and permission of the instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 298 Journalism: Communications Internship
For students undertaking projects in newspaper or magazine journalism, in radio or television, or in business, government, foundations and the arts. The student must secure permission of the chair of the Undergraduate Committee, file a description of their project with the department and, at the end of the semester, submit a significant portfolio of writing together with an evaluation by the internship supervisor. Up to 3 units acceptable toward the writing minor, but cannot be counted toward the English major or literature minor. Prerequisite: CWP 100 College Writing 1. Must be taken credit/no credit.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L13 Writing 305 Modern Humor Writing
This course will analyze and put into practice what makes good humor writing both good and humorous, from subject matter to the mechanics of setting up a punchline, from crafting an unexpected metaphor to perfecting the reversal.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 306W The Long Essay: Researched Writing
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H
L13 Writing 307 Writing and Medicine
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 309 Writing the Natural World
For students interested in the environment and natural sciences. This course brings together essays from a wide range of communities including biology, physics, medicine, environmental studies, creative writing and more. Readings and assignments are intended to enhance students’ understanding of the relationship between writing and their experience/knowledge of the natural world. Major assignments allow students to follow, explore and write about their own unique interest in a related subject, and include a personal essay, an expository essay, and a researched argumentative essay, as well as peer review workshops, oral presentations, and revision. Students record and explore their own experiences of nature in short creative assignments that prepare them for the major papers. Prerequisites: CWP 100 College Writing 1 and junior standing. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 310 Guided Research in Composition: Theory and Pedagogy of One-to-One Writing Instruction
This course teaches theoretical and practical approaches to the tutoring of writing, specifically focusing on tutoring writing within the context of undergraduate courses. Students learn collaborative methods of tutoring writing, explore different approaches to writing comments on student work in various content areas, and examine the connections between writing and thinking. Students analyze their own writing processes and learn how to help others through the writing and revision process. Readings and discussions focus on writing theory and pedagogy, and students practice one-to-one methods in mock conferences and with sample essays. Assignments: two short essays, a longer research paper and presentation, and a journal. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 311 Exposition
This advanced writing course considers style in relationship to audience and purpose, asking the writer to engage more consciously with writing conventions, and to explore strategies appropriate to various writing situations, from the more experimental and performative to the more formal and scholarly. The course involves frequent practice in analyzing and critiquing, with special attention to techniques of organization, argument and emphasis. Students in this special section of Exposition read essays, journalism and personal narratives about the experience of physicians and patients in the modern health care system. Students use expository writing to think critically and personally about their own experiences with illness and disease. Pre-medical students might use this opportunity to write and think about the anticipated rewards and challenges of the profession they hope to join. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 312 Argumentation
This advanced writing course examines the strategies of argumentation, exploring such elements of argument as the enthymeme, the three appeals, claim types and fallacies. Prerequisites: CWP 100 College Writing 1 and junior standing. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 314 Topics in Composition
An advanced writing course focusing on selected topics related to writing. Topics chosen by department/instructor. Consult section description for details about specific class emphases. (Note: In some cases, this course may be cross-listed with other programs/departments and may satisfy the writing-intensive requirement.) Prerequisites: CWP 100 College Writing 1 and junior standing. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 320 Creative Nonfiction Writing 2
This course is aimed at undergraduates who have taken Nonfiction Writing 1 and wish to pursue both their development as writers and the study of craft in the context of a more rigorous workshop. Prerequisites: CWP 100 College Writing 1, Writing 220 Creative Nonfiction Writing 1. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 321 Fiction Writing 2
This course is aimed at undergraduates who have taken Fiction Writing 1 and wish to pursue both their development as writers and the study of craft in the context of a more rigorous workshop. Prerequisites: Writing 220, Writing 221. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 321W Mellon Undergraduate Fellows Seminar
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI EN: H

L13 Writing 322 Poetry Writing 2
This course is aimed at undergraduates who have taken Poetry Writing 1 and wish to pursue both their development as poets and the study of craft in the context of a more rigorous workshop. Prerequisites: Writing 221, Writing 222.
Desire is at the heart of fiction, from the forces that drive the
characters in a story to the themes that echo through a collection of
short stories. In this course, we will explore the various elements,
structures, and styles used in crafting a motion picture screenplay.
Writers will experience the various elements, structures, and styles
used in crafting a motion picture screenplay. They will use these
elements to craft a feature-length script, including character
development, scene development, and dialogue execution. While
the students fashion their screenwriting independently, the class
will provide feedback and support as they develop their projects.

L13 Writing 331 Fiction Writing: Historical Fiction
A literature/creative writing hybrid course, students read a
number of contemporary historical fictions and then write one of
their own. We consider the ways in which these fictions inhabit,
depart from and reflect upon the historiography and history
they're built from — upon the indeterminacy of the historical
record, and the limits of its reach — but we also discuss fiction's
responsibility to historical "facts" and documents, and the
relevance of fictions among nonfictions in approaching an event
or figure. Prerequisites: CWP 100 College Writing 1, Writing 221
Fiction 1.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM: H

L13 Writing 351 Introduction to Playwriting
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 352 Introduction to Screenwriting
Writers explore the various elements, structures, and styles
used in crafting a motion picture screenplay. They experience
the various elements, structures, and styles used in crafting a
motion picture screenplay. They will use these elements to craft
a feature-length script, including character development, scene
development, and dialogue execution. While the students fashion
their screenwriting independently, the class will provide feedback
and support as they develop their projects.

L13 Writing 352W Kling Undergraduate Honors Fellowship
Seminar
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI EN: H

L13 Writing 323W Fiction Writing: The Short-Short, Sudden Fiction, and Microfiction
This course is aimed at undergraduates who have taken Fiction Writing 1 or Poetry Writing 1 and wish to further explore the craft
of fiction through the medium of the short-short story. The course
focuses on reading, writing and thinking critically about short-
shorts.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 324 Fiction Writing: Coming of Age in the Short Story
A fiction writing course that explores coming of age themes.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 325 Poetry Writing: The Poetry of Travel
This course is offered for students who have taken Poetry 1 and
are interested in further developing their craft.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM: H

L13 Writing 326 Fiction Writing: Stories in the Suburbs
In the 1950s, the suburbs were still somewhat of a novelty
in American culture — most people still lived in cities and
small towns, or on the farm. Back then, Levitowns and the
like were embraced with either gee-whiz optimism, or seen
as sinister dystopias where youth, ideals and romance went
to fester and die. But now that the American mainstream is
stucco McMansions, strip malls and big box stores; now that
the suburbs have become more ethnically diverse; now that
migration online has endangered certain ecologies of journalistic
companies, newspapers) to digital versions of the same thing;
"legacy" institutions (book publishers, film & television production
leaves the writer's hands.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 327 Creative Nonfiction: Personal Essay and Memoir
This is an intermediate course in writing creative nonfiction, with
a concentration on personal essay and memoir. Prerequisite:
Writing 220 Creative Nonfiction Writing 1.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 330 Fiction Writing: Fiction and Obsession
Desire is at the heart of fiction, from the forces that drive the
decisions characters make to the ways stories work on us as readers.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H
defined audience to produce an intended effect. In this sense, writing always touches the affairs of a polis, and thus, writing is inherently political, regardless of whether the writer considers this during composition. In this class, we will focus on explicitly political writing by writers who are not politicians, that is to say, sanctioned experts in the affairs of the polis. Foregoing public policy memoranda and economic analyses, we will look at how journalists, grassroots organizers, and creative writers have consciously written to intervene in the affairs of their communities despite their outsider status. Using techniques of rhetorical analysis and logical structure, we will examine how these writers crafted works that inspire and move audiences through the conventions of several genres: essay, polemic, journalism and satire.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SD, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 401 Writing for Children and Young Adults
In this course we examine various genres of writing for young people: poetry, fiction and nonfiction.

Credit 3 units.

L13 Writing 403 Dramaturgy Workshop
A laboratory course that investigates dramaturgy from four vantage points: New Play Dramaturgy, Institutional Dramaturgy, Dramaturgy of Classics, and Dramaturgical Approaches to Nontraditional and Devised Theater. This is a “hands-on” course where student dramaturgs not only pursue the study of dramaturgy, but work actively and collaboratively with playwrights, actors and each other. Prerequisite: Drama 343. Same as L15 Drama 403

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM

L13 Writing 4131 Topics in Composition
Composition topics course — offerings vary from semester to semester.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 420 Advanced Nonfiction
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 421 Advanced Fiction Writing
For qualified students who wish to continue their creative writing and reading through immersion in an intensive fiction workshop. Students wishing to enroll must not only register but also submit a 15-page (double-spaced) fiction sample. The sample must include a cover page with: student's name, the semester they took Fiction Writing 2, and the name of the Fiction Writing 2 instructor. Submit samples to the English Department mailbox of the L13 Writing 421 instructor no later than April 20. No one is officially enrolled in this class until contacted by the instructor. Prerequisites: CWP 100 College Writing 1, Writing 222 Poetry Writing 1, Writing 322 Poetry Writing 2.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 423 Proseminar in Writing: Nonfiction Prose
For students qualified to pursue their own projects in nonfiction prose; criticism by other members of the class and by the instructor. Limit: 12 students. Prerequisite: permission of instructor upon submission of writing samples.

Credit 3 units.

L13 Writing 424 Poetry Tutorial
These credits are available to students who have completed Writing 222 Poetry I and Writing 322 Poetry II. This is an opportunity for students who have already completed Writing 422 Advanced Poetry, or who are not able to take Advanced Poetry because of scheduling conflicts, to meet individually with the instructor to develop a portfolio of poems. During weekly meetings students explore various writing processes and revision techniques. There are directed readings and discussions of selected topics related to contemporary poetry and poetics. Credits may be taken concurrently with Advanced Poetry. Permission of the instructor is required.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 431 Craft of Fiction: Experimental Traditions
A literature/creative writing hybrid course; students read a number of contemporary historical fictions — an increasingly important and innovative genre — and then write one of their own.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 432 The Craft of Poetry
An investigation into the art and craft of poetry, in order to consider the choices a poet makes in the process of composing and revising. The students are asked to complete many poetry writing exercises, as well as the writing of critical papers, in their investigation of poetic forms and modes from many historical periods. (This course is highly recommended for those who have completed or are taking the 300-level creative writing courses and to students in The Writing Program.)

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 440 Critic as Writer
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 4521 Advanced Screenwriting
This course is intended for students who have already taken Film 352 Introduction to Screenwriting. Building on past writing experiences, students explore the demands of writing feature-length screenplays, adaptations and experimental forms. Particular attention is paid to the task of rewriting. Same as L53 Film 452

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 4731 Advanced Playwriting
This course explores the tendencies and relationship between each individual student writer and the page. Exercises dispel any lingering doctrine that presupposes a certain style of writing. A
large part of the class centers around collaborations. The writers write scenes as a final project for an acting class, and also work with two professional actors in an extended writing project that culminates in a script-in-hand presentation. The informal moments between collaborations look at the process beyond the first draft — i.e., the playground of language, nonverbal options, and the maintaining of “the work” through rewrites, readings, workshops and productions. Prerequisite: Drama 227 Introduction to Playwriting.

Same as L15 Drama 473
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L13 Writing 490 Creative Writing Capstone Seminar
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

Writing Center Courses

L59 CWP 100 College Writing 1
This course teaches writing as a way of thinking and learning. Throughout the semester, students explore writing as a creative and intellectual process. They learn how to brainstorm, explore and structure ideas on a page; share their writing and learn how to give and take constructive criticism; and learn how to revise their work, both for issues related to the paper's larger idea and for issues related to grammar and style. By regularly working their way through the writing process, students develop the habits and skills that make advanced study possible: paying close attention to the words and ideas of others; forming and responding to arguments of others; and refining a lucid style of prose that meets the expectations of the audience and occasion. This course is taught in small sections of 12 students or fewer. Credit 3 units.

L59 CWP 1001 Fundamentals of Academic Writing
A preparatory course required of some students before they take CWP 100 College Writing 1 (placement to be determined by the department). Particular attention is paid to reading comprehension, critical thinking, organization of ideas and grammar. In some cases, students may be required to enroll in a one-credit tutorial along with this course.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L59 CWP 102 Citizen Scientist
We frequently make decisions informed by our understanding of science, as individuals and as citizens. What constitutes a nutritional diet, or a risk to our health? How should we evaluate the costs of substantive political action to address climate change against scientists’ predictions of the risks of inaction? Given the volume of available specialist research, news, “fake news,” and opinion, what does it mean to develop an informed opinion on a scientific issue? Citizen Scientist introduces students to topics at the intersection of civic responsibility and scientific research - especially climate change - as a means through which to teach the craft of writing. Students will learn how to analyze rhetorical positions and argumentative claims in order to reach a deeper understanding of the dynamic interaction between science, politics, journalism and the public. Students will contribute to those debates by practicing different types of writing, including a rhetorical analysis, an argument essay, and a research paper. Students will also have the opportunity to better their oral communication skills during class presentations, office visits, and in-class workshops. This course will satisfy the Writing 1 requirement.
Credit 3 units.

L59 CWP 104 Writing Identity
Who are you? This simple question becomes ever more complicated the more closely you examine it. How should you define yourself? By ancestry, hometown, gender, cultural allegiance, ethnic background, nationality, sexual preference, social class, personal history, fashion sense, career aspirations, taste in music, or by some other category? This class will examine the complexities of identity as they have been expressed in a wide variety of modern literary (and some philosophical) writings, in order to develop the advanced reading, writing, and research skills that students need in a university setting.
Same as L13 Writing 104
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L59 CWP 200 Writing Tutorial
A tutorial in writing; may be taken for credit in one of two cases: (1) Students may be required to enroll in the tutorial for concentrated practice in writing fundamentals under the guidance of a tutor in addition to taking CWP 100 College Writing 1. In these cases, satisfying the first-year writing requirement means receiving a satisfactory grade in CWP 100 and receiving a passing grade in the tutorial. Students enroll in CWP 200 for 1 credit hour. Tutorials taken concurrently with CWP 100 must be taken pass/fail. (2) Students may be required to take the tutorial for 3 credit hours after taking CWP 100 in order to satisfy the first-year writing requirement. In this case, the tutorial is taken for credit. Direct all questions to Writing 1 office: 314-935-4899.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L59 CWP 201 Writing Workshop
An intensive workshop focusing on selected topics related to writing. Topics chosen by the department/instructor. Must be taken for credit. Consult course and section descriptions in online course listings for details about workshop emphases.
Credit 1 unit. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H