

# CREATIVE WRITING - MASTER OF FINE ARTS

## Graduate Program Information

The MFA Creative Writing Program is housed in the Creative Media Institute.

The Master of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing is a 3-year program. Students choose a major genre: poetry or fiction, though classes in nonfiction, writing, screenwriting and others are offered. Students must complete 54 hours of graduate-level course work, submit a creative writing thesis, give a public reading from the thesis, and pass an oral examination.

Our mission is to emphasize the creation and critical analysis of literature, so that our students can be part of the national conversation about writing, graduating with a publishable manuscript. By providing our students with a set of skills, we prepare them to contribute to their communities as writers, publishing professionals and teachers.

## Creative Writing - Master of Fine Arts

Students pursuing the MFA in Creative Writing devote themselves to concentrated study and development of a chosen genre: poetry or fiction. Students

- complete 54 hours of graduate-level coursework,
- participate and pass (as of Fall 27) in a third-semester review,
- present a book-length thesis of original work with an introduction or afterward,
- perform a public reading from the thesis, and
- pass an oral examination in the final semester.

All MFA courses are restricted to students accepted into the MFA program.

Prefix	Title	Credits
<b>Required Coursework</b>		
FDMA 570	MFA Workshop (4 FDMA 570 workshops in the genre of poetry or fiction for which the student was admitted to study AND 1 FDMA 570 workshop in a second genre.) <sup>1</sup>	15
FDMA 550	MFA Form & Technique	9
FDMA 592	MFA Theory, Practice and Professionalism <sup>2</sup>	3
FDMA 594	MFA Thesis Workshop <sup>3</sup>	6
<b>Thesis Credits</b>		
FDMA 599	MFA Thesis <sup>4</sup>	6
<b>Required Electives</b>		15
Graduate-level courses in any of the following:		
FDMA Courses Offered by the Creative Media Institute: <sup>5</sup>		
FDMA 422	Environmental Filmmaking	
FDMA 480	Screenwriting II	
FDMA 490	Advanced Screenwriting	
FDMA 500	Graduate Problems in Creative Media	
FDMA 501	Special Topics	
FDMA 550	MFA Form & Technique (Additional credits may be counted toward electives only after the completion of 9 credits of FDMA 550.)	

FDMA 570	MFA Workshop (Additional credits may be counted toward electives only after the completion of 15 credits of FDMA 570.)
FDMA 592	MFA Theory, Practice and Professionalism (Additional credits may be counted toward electives only after the completion of 3 credits of FDMA 592.)
FDMA 595	Master of Fine Arts Graduate Internship
<b>Courses offered by Journalism and Media Studies:</b>	
JOUR 463	Public Relations for Social Impact
JOUR 470	Environmental, Social, & Governance Public Relations
JOUR 494	Special Topics
JOUR 495	Media Theory
<b>Additional Approved Elective Courses<sup>6</sup></b>	
<b>Courses from the Art Department:</b>	
ARTS 494	Special Topics in Studio
ARTS 495	Studio Core IV: Thesis Production & Display
ARTS 496	Fundamentals of Studio Management
ARTS 499	Problems in Studio Art
ARTS 501	Museum Conservation Techniques I
ARTS 550	Drawing and Painting Workshop
ARTS 555	Graphic Design
ARTS 565	Sculpture Media
ARTS 570	Photography Seminar
ARTS 575	Ceramic Arts
ARTH 500	Special Topics in Art History
ARTH 511	Art of China I: Neolithic to Song Dynasty
ARTH 536	Race and Art
ARTH 542	Global Modernisms
ARTH 543	Contemporary Global Art Practices
ARTH 544	Gender, Sexuality, and Art in the Americas
ARTH 545	Latin American Film
ARTH 546	Museum and Curatorial Studies
ARTH 578	Seminar in Art History
ARTH 579	Methodologies and Historiography of Art History and Art Theory
<b>Courses from the Borderlands and Ethnic Studies Program:</b>	
BEST 5105	Foundations in Borderlands & Ethnic Studies
BEST 5110	Decolonial Research I: Methodologies
BEST 5120	Theories in Borderlands and Ethnic Studies
BEST 5125	Decolonial Research II: Methodologies
BEST 5135	Decolonial Research II: Data Analysis and Publication
<b>Courses from the department of Communication Studies:</b>	
COMM 5110	Theories of Communication
COMM 5220	Communication Technologies
COMM 5230	Strategic Communication
<b>Courses from the Department of English:</b>	
ENGL 501	Online Publishing
ENGL 505	Graduate Study in Chaucer
ENGL 508	Graduate Study in Shakespeare I
ENGL 509	Graduate Study in Shakespeare II
ENGL 517	Graduate Study in Critical Theory
ENGL 521	Graduate Study in a Literary Period or Movement
ENGL 522	Graduate Study in a Literary Form or Genre
ENGL 523	Graduate Study of a Major Author

ENGL 524	Graduate Study in a Major Text
ENGL 525	Graduate Study in Comparative Literature
ENGL 526	Special Topics in Critical Theory
ENGL 527	Graduate Study in Film and Digital Media
ENGL 533	Victorian Literature
ENGL 542	Modern and Contemporary American Poetry
ENGL 543	Multimedia Theory and Production
ENGL 544	Modern British Fiction
ENGL 545	Postmodern Fiction
ENGL 552	Graduate Study in History of the English Language
ENGL 553	World Literatures
ENGL 555	Graduate Study in Rhetoric of Scientific Literature
ENGL 558	Latino/a Literature and Culture
ENGL 560	Proposal and Grant Writing
ENGL 563	Graduate Study in English Literature
ENGL 567	Documentary Film Theory and Criticism
ENGL 569	Graduate in American Literature
ENGL 571	Composition Pedagogy and Practicum
ENGL 581	Women's Literature
ENGL 582	Gender and Popular Culture
ENGL 583	Critical Writing Studies
ENGL 589	Cultural Studies: Literature and Theory
Courses from the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program - check GNDR site for 2-year course rotations if planning to complete a graduate minor in GNDR.	
GNDR 501	Advanced Women & Immigration
GNDR 502	Advanced Transnational Feminisms
GNDR 505	Advanced Alternative Genders and Sexualities
GNDR 506	Advanced Women and Human Rights
GNDR 507	Advanced Gender and Graphic Narrative
GNDR 508	Advanced Feminist Food Studies
GNDR 511	Advanced Gender and Migration
GNDR 512	Advanced Gender and Film Studies
GNDR 533	Advanced Issues in Sex, Gender, and Culture
GNDR 550	Race and Gender in Film
GNDR 554	Advanced Issues in Women Crossing Borders
GNDR 565	Advanced Sex, Gender & the Body
GNDR 571	Advanced Seminar in Feminist and Queer Theories
GNDR 582	Gender and Popular Culture
GNDR 584	Women's Literature
Courses from the Department of History:	
HIST 511	Making the American West
HIST 514	The Constitution and U.S. History
HIST 527	Labor History
HIST 535	War and Revolution
HIST 538	Special Topics in European History
HIST 543	Special Topics in Asian History
HIST 545	Special Topics in United States History
HIST 568	Urban History
HIST 570	The Cold War in Latin America
HIST 571	China through the Ming Dynasty
HIST 572	China in the Modern World
HIST 573	History of Japan
HIST 575	History of the Global Political Economy

HIST 579	Oral History
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>54</b>

- <sup>1</sup> Subtitles will vary for both FDMA 550 MFA Form & Technique and FDMA 570 MFA Workshop. Select the section that matches your genre requirements or elective choice.
- <sup>2</sup> After completion of 36 hours, requires concurrent enrollment in FDMA 594 MFA Thesis Workshop. MFA candidates may be advised to repeat FDMA 592 MFA Theory, Practice and Professionalism (for additional elective credits) to better prepare for completion of the thesis.
- <sup>3</sup> After completion of 36 hours, requires concurrent enrollment in FDMA 592 MFA Theory, Practice and Professionalism. After completion of 45 credits, concurrent enrollment in FDMA 592 MFA Theory, Practice and Professionalism is no longer required.
- <sup>4</sup> In the semester of thesis defense, it is university policy that degree candidates must enroll in thesis hours. Should an MFA candidate still need to reschedule a thesis defense after the completion of 6 credits, it is university policy that the candidate must enroll in an additional 1 credit hour of thesis during the calendar session of the defense. Thesis hours earned beyond the 6 required for the MFA degree cannot be used for elective credits.
- <sup>5</sup> Graduate students may enroll in FDMA or JOUR courses numbered below 450 for graduate credit by enrolling in a cross listed FDMA 500 Graduate Problems in Creative Media or FDMA 501 Special Topics. Requests to offer an FDMA 500 Graduate Problems in Creative Media or FDMA 501 Special Topics must be approved by the CMI Director of Graduate Studies and filed with the department no later than 14 business days before registration opens for graduate students. The course instructor must approve setting up a graduate section that will require additional work appropriate for graduate-level study.
- <sup>6</sup> These courses should be carefully selected in consultation with your advisor to ensure career, disciplinary, or artistic relevance to your study in Creative Writing. Most of these courses will require permission of instructor. For students with financial aid, be aware that courses taken for a graduate minor must also count toward the MFA in Creative Writing and that requested degree exceptions must be processed by the census date of that semester (for more information visit <https://fa.nmsu.edu/cpos/index.html> (<https://fa.nmsu.edu/cpos/>)). To enroll in coursework below FDMA 450 Advanced 2D Animation, graduate students may enroll (with permission from instructor and advisor) for graduate credit in a "special topic" shell within that department or enroll in a cross listed FDMA 500 Graduate Problems in Creative Media or FDMA 501 Special Topics. See note "v" for deadlines and approval process.