

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 |
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| Required Coursework | | |
| 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.) ¹ | 15 |
| FDMA 550 | MFA Form & Technique | 9 |
| FDMA 592 | MFA Theory, Practice and Professionalism ² | 3 |
| FDMA 594 | MFA Thesis Workshop ³ | 6 |
| Thesis Credits | | |
| FDMA 599 | MFA Thesis ⁴ | 6 |
| Required Electives | | 15 |
| Graduate-level courses in any of the following: | | |
| FDMA Courses Offered by the Creative Media Institute: ⁵ | | |
| 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.) | |

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| 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 |
| Courses offered by Journalism and Media Studies: | |
| JOUR 463 | Public Relations for Social Impact |
| JOUR 470 | Environmental, Social, & Governance Public Relations |
| JOUR 494 | Special Topics |
| JOUR 495 | Media Theory |
| Additional Approved Elective Courses ⁶ | |
| Courses from the Art Department: | |
| 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 |
| Courses from the Borderlands and Ethnic Studies Program: | |
| 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 |
| Courses from the department of Communication Studies: | |
| COMM 5110 | Theories of Communication |
| COMM 5220 | Communication Technologies |
| COMM 5230 | Strategic Communication |
| Courses from the Department of English: | |
| 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 |

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| 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 |

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| HIST 579 | Oral History |
| Total Credits | 54 |

- ¹ 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.
- ² 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.
- ³ 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.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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.