



Southern Methodist University
MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES
Curricular Field Concentrations

Creative Writing

Curriculum Description

The Creative Writing concentration is an interdisciplinary study and analysis of creative writing in a setting that is both challenging and supportive. This concentration offers a stimulating and creative environment, providing an introduction to the creative writing process across genres. The curriculum will provide opportunities for writing in the categories of (1) fiction, (2) poetry, (3) playwriting, and (4) creative non-fiction. Students will be encouraged to explore the human experience through crafting their writing in at least two of these categories. The program is workshop based and is defined not by coursework alone but also by writing with an eye towards publication. This concentration is not designed to be a professional or vocational credential, but rather to enrich the student's knowledge and understanding of this curricular field of study.

Courses from departments at SMU other than Liberal Studies may be selected with the permission of both departments on a space-available basis (maximum of 6 credit hours). Non-GLS courses must be "in the spirit" of the Liberal Studies Degree Program with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. Independent Study courses may also be designed with designated faculty members (maximum of 6 credit hours) to supplement MLS course offerings, with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. The creative writing concentration will appear on the final transcript of record.

Students may participate in appropriate study abroad experiences, such as those offered in France and Italy and other sites through the Master of Liberal Studies program. A study tour may count toward the concentration electives.

Format

Students who select a Creative Writing concentration must complete the following:

- 36 credit hours (required for overall MLS degree)
- The 3 credit hour introductory required course: The Human Experience
- 3 credit hour designated writing intensive course (not part of the concentration)
- 6 elective courses (18 credit hours) related to the designated concentration (determined by the student and faculty member)
- 6 plus credit hour thesis or 3 credit hour capstone project



COURSES, *Creative Writing*

Fiction

HUMN 6387 Story: Fact, Fiction and Truth

FNAR 7360 Creating the Short Story

FNAR 7361 Creating Compelling Narrative: *Who Did It? Who Knew? And, Why Should a Reader Care?*

FNAR #TBD Creating the Novel

Poetry

FNAR 6394 Creating Poetry (*repeatable for credit*)

Playwriting

FNAR #TBD Creating the Stage Play

FNAR 6301 The Practice of Dramatic Writing

FNAR 6397 Developing the Writer's Voice: Intermediate Skills

Creative Non-Fiction

HUMN 6374 Writing and the Search for the Self

HUMN 6376 Our Stories, Ourselves

FNAR 6308 Creating Truths

FNAR 6315 Creating the Memoir

FNAR 7361 Creating Compelling Narrative: *Who Did It? Who Knew? And, Why Should a Reader Care?*

Film Script Writing

Courses in development

Related Courses

FNAR 6304 Writing the West (Taos)

FNAR #TBD Writing the City

FNAR 6306 Reading to Write

FNAR 6308 Creating Truths

FNAR 7350 Writing in Nature in Taos, NM

Related courses may address either a single creative writing genre or multiple genres.