Writing Workshops
Spring 2016

ENGL2221 Introduction to Creative Writing (Fall, Spring:3.0)
An introductory course in which students will write both poetry and short fiction and read published examples of each. We will experiment with the formal possibilities of the two genres and look at what links and separates them. The course is workshop-based, with an emphasis on steady production and revision. Through exercises and/or open and directed writing assignments, students will produce a portfolio of short fiction and poetry.
The Department

ENGL4412 Writing Workshop: Creative Nonfiction (Fall, Spring:3.0)
Over the past few decades, the best nonfiction being written has expanded to include not only such traditional forms as argument and exposition but also the mixed modes of creative nonfiction. As an intermediate-level course, we will build on the work of the First Year Writing Seminar and hone the skills needed in advanced writing electives. Students in this course choose their own topics and explore the range of possibilities now available to the nonfiction writer.
The Department

ENGL4539 Advanced Creative Nonfiction: Writing the Past (Spring:3.0)
For the purposes of this course, we will define “the past” as at least 50 years ago. We will look into writing about family history, writing about an historical figure, and writing about an era by exploring a particular historic moment. Along the way, we will entertain practical questions involved in writing about the past as well as some of the more difficult philosophical ones. When, for instance, is it permissible to invent "facts"? How can we render "real" people fairly, whether they are relatives or public figures? And is it possible to avoid judging past events by present standards?
Suzanne Berne

ENGL4433 Advanced Creative Nonfiction: Flash Nonfiction (Spring:3.0)
In this writing workshop, we will focus on producing short creative nonfiction pieces, including micro-narratives; metaphor essays; segmented essays; lyric essays; appropriate(d) form pieces; persona pieces; and informative sketches. To generate ideas and to test potential audience interest for each of your essays, we will generate tweets, texts, and status updates. To identify forms and techniques for this sort of writing, we will read and discuss flash nonfiction from a variety of sources, including an edited anthology of short creative nonfiction, magazine and newspaper columns, and online literary journals, websites, and blogs. Workshops will also be frequent and brief: each student will write and workshop a new or revised flash piece nearly every single week.
Lad Tobin
ENGL4577 Writing Workshop: Poetry (Fall, Spring:3.0)
A course in writing poetry in a variety of forms, with an emphasis on craft and revision. Students will produce roughly one poem a week and will workshop each other's drafts in group discussion.
John Anderson, Sue Roberts

ENGL4579 Writing Workshop: Fiction (Fall, Spring:3.0)
Enrollment limited to 15.
This course provides encouragement, practice, and criticism for students seriously interested in writing short fiction. The workshop format demands self-motivation and universal participation. Since students' stories are texts for class discussion, a generous willingness to respond to others' writing and to expose one's own work to such reactions is an essential prerequisite. Individual conferences with the instructor supplement the workshop discussions. Students are expected to produce a steady stream of new and revised fiction throughout the semester. Narrative preferences from the traditional to the experimental are welcome.
Suzanne Matson/ Christopher Boucher

ENGL4588 Business Writing (Fall, Spring:3.0)
For Carroll School of Management students, the course is also available as BCOM6688.
This course is designed to expose students to the type of writing done on the job. It is a practical course where real-life examples are used to illustrate appropriate writing strategies, style, language and formats commonly found in a business setting. By the end of the semester, students will be proficient in producing business correspondence, instructions, reports, proposals, resumes, and presentation materials.
Randi Triant

ENGL4915 Advanced Fiction Writing Workshop (Spring:3.0)
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor required
Students in this course will extend their previous writing experience by studying and practicing elements of fiction writing: character development, point of view, voice, setting, imagery, sentence design, plot, pacing, and the use of time in a narrative. Enrollment in the course commits students to intensive writing, both in class and out, and full participation in the workshop editing process. Class time will be used for discussion of models from our anthology, in-class writing exercises, and large and small group workshops focused on student writing. Students will also meet with the instructor for editing conferences. Instructor permission required; send an 8-page fiction writing sample to suzanne.berne@bc.edu before the first day of registration.
Suzanne Berne
ENGL4917 Advanced Poetry Workshop (Spring: 3.0)

This is a workshop for those who already have some experience writing poetry, and who wish to work intensively on matters of craft and revision. Students will produce two poems a week, responding to each other’s drafts in workshop discussion. Students will write in both free verse and form, having the freedom to choose which poems go into the final, graded chapbook of twelve revised poems produced over the semester. No application process.

Suzanne Matson