

CREATIVE WRITING

ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION



"IF THERE IS A BOOK THAT YOU WANT TO READ, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN WRITTEN YET, YOU MUST BE THE ONE TO WRITE IT."

— TONI MORRISON

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Even before they were literate, our ancestors used poetry and story to chronicle their history. Still today, human beings utilize the language arts to share, reflect, and understand one another — and the reflections of great writers improve the state of our world, both publicly and privately. Centre's Creative Writing Program empowers students to create their own impact through artful writing, and to do so with precision and passion. Drawing students from all three academic divisions, writing workshops at Centre teach techniques in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction.

Many of our students enroll in creative writing courses because they hope to enter careers in the literary arts, journalism, or publishing. Yet whether or not you wish to be "a writer," a creative writing class will make you a more articulate and graceful communicator, no matter what your vocation. It will teach you creative problem-solving and the empathic critique of others' work.

Students who declare the minor in creative writing take a total of six courses, read from their work regularly at campus events, and submit a portfolio of revised work upon graduation. Every year, we offer beginning and advanced workshops in fiction and poetry and regularly introduce new courses into our curriculum, often ones that actively promote cross-disciplinary studies (one recent example is Creative Writing on Nature and the Environment). Although many students choose to concentrate

on a specific genre (poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction), we require basic proficiency in multiple genres and highly encourage students to combine and think beyond the confines of a singular genre.

Centre's literary journal, *Vantage Point*, is written, illustrated, edited, and produced entirely by students, providing valuable professional experience for those interested in editing and publishing.

Presentations and class visits by nationally known visiting writers complement class readings of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction, inspiring students and introducing them to the range of what's possible in today's literary arts. Recent and upcoming guests include Roxane Gay, Bianca Spriggs, Crystal Wilkinson, Lia Purpura, Paul Muldoon, Roger Reeves, Eavan Boland, Frank X Walker, Maurice Manning, and Safiya Sinclair.

While every creative writing class is different, each helps students generate new creative work while developing skills in the craft of writing. Our faculty help students identify individual subject matter (the **what** students write about), strengthen their creative approaches (the **how** to write it), and build their critical and social acumen in peer review discussions (the **writing workshop**). Embedded within the stories and poems of our young writers are their nuanced reflections — inspiring dialogue on campus, spurring debate in the classroom, and inviting empathy everywhere.

FACULTY

AZITA OSANLOO (Ph.D., Florida State University), Assistant Professor of English

LISA WILLIAMS (M.F.A., University of Virginia), Cantrell Professor of English, Director of Creative Writing Program

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM AT CENTRE, CONTACT:

Lisa Williams, Program Chair
600 West Walnut Street
Danville, Kentucky 40422
859.238.5257
lisa.williams@centre.edu

CREATIVE WRITING WEB PAGE

www.centre.edu/academics/majors-minors/creative-writing