

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Title of Proposal – Must begin with Department Abbreviation:

Creative Writing Concentration as part of the BA in English

Check One: Full Proposal or Information Item

Effective Date for Curricular Offering: 2012-2013 academic year

FROM: English Department, Joe Wilferth, Holt 203, x4621, Joe-Wilferth@utc.edu

(proposal originator: include spokesperson's name, department, office number, telephone, e-mail)

Does this require new resources from the originating department or other department? No
Please include an explanation if yes.

Faculty of the originating department approved this proposal on October 7, 2011 (date),
by a vote of 28 aye votes; 1 nay votes; 3 abstentions; 32/8 eligible voting members absent.

The following have examined this proposal:

Dept Head/Director: Joe Wilferth 10/7/11
Printed name Signature, date Approve Neutral Disapprove*

College Curriculum Committee Date: _____ Vote: _____ Signature of Chair: _____

Spokespersons for Affected Departments:

Printed Name, Department Signature, Date Approve Neutral Disapprove*
Betsy Alderman, COMM _____

Dean/Director: H. Burkhead 10/24/11
Printed name Signature, date Approve Neutral Disapprove*

University Registrar: Linda Orth
Printed name Signature, date Comments

Provost/Representative: J. Sanders 11/16/11
Printed name Signature, date Approve Neutral Disapprove*

Lab/studio fee requested:

Provost: Phil Oldham
Printed name Signature, date Approve Disapprove*

*Those who disapprove may attach an explanation

ACTIONS on this proposal:	Curriculum Committee	Faculty Senate
Date the proposal was considered	_____	_____
Vote of the body:	_____	_____
Accepted as information item (indicate date)	_____	_____
Approved as submitted (indicate date)	_____	_____
Approved with amendments (amendments indicated and transmitted to all signatories above, date):	_____	_____
Signature of Chair:	_____	_____

12.031B-124

Curriculum Proposal: *Creative Writing Concentration as part of the BA in English and American Language and Literature*

Summary

For decades now, the Department of English has offered to students a *BA in English and American Language and Literature*, as well as a writing concentration. The latter is designated in the Undergraduate Catalog as *BA in English and American Language and Literature: Writing Concentration*. Essentially, we have two majors: a literature major and a writing major. Since 2006, the writing concentration especially has grown. Of our 252 majors (as of Fall 2011), 154 are in the writing concentration. In light of this growth, we have added courses and faculty in two main areas: rhetoric/writing (including courses in Composition Studies, professional writing, style, and argumentation theory) and creative writing (including courses in fiction, creative nonfiction, screen writing, and more). As this writing concentration has evolved, it has become clear that this concentration needs to be redefined, specifically into two separate but complementary concentrations—*viz.* one that is primarily for rhetoric/writing students and another that is primarily for creative writing students. The English faculty, therefore, propose a second writing concentration, ***BA in English and American Language and Literature: Creative Writing***. (A related proposal which identifies changes to our existing writing concentration accompanies this proposal. Those changes indicate a refined focus on rhetoric and professional writing.)

Rationale

Since 2006, the English undergraduate program in creative writing has grown significantly. We have had to increase our creative writing course offerings (as indicated in the following chart), and approximately half of our students in the writing concentration identify themselves as primarily creative writing students.

Course	Sections Spring 2006	Sections Spring 2012
ENGL 2700 (Introduction to Creative Writing)	2	5
ENGL 3740 (Creative Writing: Nonfiction)	1	2
ENGL 3750 (Creative Writing: Poetry)	1	2
ENGL 3760 (Creative Writing: Fiction)	1	3
ENGL 4910 (Writing Workshops)	1	2
Total	6	14

This increase in offerings has now extended to summer offerings as well.

The current writing concentration, in an attempt to capture the interests and needs of our students, has become rather “bloated.” That is, in an attempt to accommodate the sheer number of majors and their diverse interests in writing careers (*e.g.*, publishing, technical writing, editing, creative writing, MFA work at the graduate level), we have created courses and modified our upper-level requirements to the extent that a split, or two concentration options, seems necessary—*i.e.*, a split or diverging path for those students who wish to focus primarily on rhetoric/writing and another for those students who wish to focus primarily on creative writing. A creative writing concentration, and the designation of such on a student’s degree, makes these majors far more competitive for top MFA programs in the country.

Similarly, a concentration in creative writing will be a valuable recruiting tool for our program and for UTC. Many students in surrounding high schools are interested in pursuing an English degree that focuses on creative writing.

Finally, the Department of English currently offers three undergraduate minors—one in creative writing, one in writing, and one in literature. Our MA program offers three tracks in the same three areas. Our undergraduate major lacks this clarity and that structure in programs of study. Therefore, developing a concentration in creative writing for our majors reflects distinctions we have already recognized and developed at other levels of our curriculum.

Effects on English Department Programs

Since 2006, we have successfully added eight new courses to the creative writing offerings: Literary Editing and Publishing (3780), Cross Genre Workshop (3790), Traditions of the Short Poem (4030), Traditions in Short Fiction (4040), Readings in Creative Nonfiction (4050), Advanced Short Story Workshop (4720), Novel Writing (under 4910), and Playwriting and Screenwriting (under 4910). No new courses will be required at this time.

Likewise, the new concentration will have no effect on faculty demands. We currently have six full-time faculty who teach the various creative courses the undergraduate and graduate levels. We will not need to hire additional faculty to meet this proposed change in our program.

Effects on Other Programs and Resources

Because our faculty already offer the courses in this proposed concentration, we will not need additional resources for the concentration. As mentioned above, this proposal does warrant changes to the existing writing concentration.

Curriculum Modifications

As outlined in the following documents, curriculum modifications appear only in two areas: 1) under the “one course from” (or “special topics”) area and 2) under the “12 hours of major course work chosen from the following writing courses” area.

Page 3: Current Program Requirements (Writing Concentration)

Page 4: Proposed Cuts/Additions

Page 5: Catalog Copy (or the clean version)

Current Program Requirements: *BA in English and American Language and Literature: Writing*

A minimum of 39 hours English in addition to general education requirements:

- ENGL 2010 - Introduction to Literary Analysis
- ENGL 2050 - Introduction to Rhetorical Analysis
- ENGL 2130 - Survey of American Literature
- ENGL 2230 - Survey of British Literature
- ENGL 3340 - Shakespeare
- ENGL 4650 - History of the English Language

One course from:

- ENGL 4870r - Major Issues in Rhetoric
- ENGL 4970r - Special Topics in Literature and Language

12 hours of major course work chosen from the following writing courses:

- ENGL 3640 - Introduction to Linguistics
- ENGL 3740r - Creative Writing: Nonfiction
- ENGL 3750r - Creative Writing: Poetry
- ENGL 3760r - Creative Writing: Fiction
- ENGL 3780r - Literary Editing and Publishing
- ENGL 3790r - Cross Genre Writing Workshop
- ENGL 3810 - Origins and History of Writing: Hieroglyphics to Hypertext
- ENGL 3830 - Writing Beyond the Academy
- ENGL 4810 - Writing for Teachers
- ENGL 4820 - Writing with Style
- ENGL 4830 - Theories and Methods of Argument
- ENGL 4840 - Proposals, Articles and Technical Research
- ENGL 4860 - Visual Rhetoric
- ENGL 4870r - Major Issues in Rhetoric
- ENGL 4910r - Writing Workshop
- ENGL 4960r - Internship
- ENGL 4970r - Special Topics in Literature and Language
- ENGL 4995r - Departmental Thesis
- Communication 3630 may also be used to satisfy course work in the writing concentration.

One course from the following to satisfy the Senior Capstone Requirement:

- ENGL 4960r - Internship
- ENGL 4980 - Senior Seminar
- ENGL 4994r - Departmental Practicum
- ENGL 4995r - Departmental Thesis

Additional 3000-4000 level English courses to total at least 27 upper-level hours.

Proposed Program Requirements: *BA in English & American Language & Literature: Creative Writing*

A minimum of 39 hours English in addition to general education requirements:

- ENGL 2010 - Introduction to Literary Analysis
- ENGL 2050 - Introduction to Rhetorical Analysis
- ENGL 2130 - Survey of American Literature
- ENGL 2230 - Survey of British Literature
- ENGL 3340 - Shakespeare
- ENGL 4650 - History of the English Language

One course from:

- ~~ENGL 4870r - Major Issues in Rhetoric~~
- ~~ENGL 4970r - Special Topics in Literature and Language~~
- ENGL 3810 - Origins and History of Writing: Hieroglyphics to Hypertext
- ENGL 4030 - Traditions in the Short Poem
- ENGL 4040 - Traditions in Short Fiction
- ENGL 4050 - Readings in Creative Nonfiction

12 hours of major course work chosen from the following writing courses:

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- ENGL 3750r - Creative Writing: Poetry
- ENGL 3760r - Creative Writing: Fiction
- ~~ENGL 3780r - Literary Editing and Publishing~~
- ~~ENGL 3790r - Cross-Genre Writing Workshop~~
- ~~ENGL 3810 - Origins and History of Writing: Hieroglyphics to Hypertext~~
- ~~ENGL 3830 - Writing Beyond the Academy~~
- ENGL 4720r - Advanced Short Story Workshop [added]
- ~~ENGL 4810 - Writing for Teachers~~
- ENGL 4820 - Writing with Style
- ~~ENGL 4830 - Theories and Methods of Argument~~
- ~~ENGL 4840 - Proposals, Articles and Technical Research~~
- ENGL 4860 - Visual Rhetoric
- ~~ENGL 4870r - Major Issues in Rhetoric~~
- ENGL 4910r - Writing Workshop
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- ~~ENGL 4970r - Special Topics in Literature and Language~~
- ~~ENGL 4995r - Departmental Thesis~~
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One course from:

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