

Words at Work Courses in the English Major

NOTE: only 4 credits of 200-level Words at Work courses may count towards the English Major

ENGL 240 – Introduction to Creative Writing 4 semester hours

Prerequisite: ENGL 101E

Beginning course in creative writing — fiction, poetry, drama, creative nonfiction—focusing on the basics of writing creatively: description, image, rhythm, sound, metaphor, voice, storytelling, and character. First-year students by permission of instructor. This course is a prerequisite to all advanced creative writing courses. Writing Intensive. Every year.

ENGL 241 – Beginning Journalism 4 semester hours

Prerequisite: ENGL 101E

Introduction to the concepts and concerns of the practicing journalist, with primary emphasis on news writing and secondary emphasis on beginning copy-editing skills. Students discuss such topics as freedom of the press, rights and responsibilities, and the post-Watergate press, and are expected to write for the weekly student newspaper. Writing intensive. Every year.

ENGL 242 – Writing Center Theory and Practice 4 semester hours

Prerequisites: By permission of instructor, ENGL 101E

This course is designed primarily to prepare writing advisors for the Wittenberg Writing Center. Emphasis on writing processes, interpersonal dynamics, evaluation of writing-in-progress, and rhetorical theory as it pertains to working one-to-one with writers. By permission of instructor only. Writing intensive. Every year.

ENGL 243 – Business Writing 4 semester hours

Prerequisite: ENGL 101E

This course focuses on writing skills for professional situations, including conventional formats for letters, memos, and formal reports. Also looks at use of conventional structures for typical documents such as brochures, résumés, and proposals. Emphasis on peer critique, editing, and revision. Writing intensive. Alternate years.

ENGL 244 – Opinion Writing 4 semester hours

Prerequisites: ENGL 101E and ENGL 241

Intermediate course with emphasis on journalistic opinion writing such as editorials, commentaries, columns, and reviews. Reading will include examples of such writing; students will practice writing, critiquing, revising, and editing skills. Writing intensive.

ENGL 245 – Writing for Teachers 4 semester hours

An intermediate course in composition for prospective teachers. Students will review the history of writing instruction, study key issues in composition and assessment theory, and develop their own writing. The course will also examine the day-to-day work of a writing class: from designing assignments to responding to drafts and finished products. Writing intensive. Fall semester odd-numbered years.

ENGL 320 – Advanced News Writing**4 semester hours****Prerequisite: ENGL 241**

This course builds on basic journalistic skills by exploring advanced techniques in writing, editing, reporting, layout, investigation, research, and conducting interviews. Emphasis on workshop critiques, editing, and revision. Writing intensive. Alternate years.

ENGL 321 – Advanced Feature Writing**4 semester hours****Prerequisite: ENGL 241**

The course offers practice in writing feature stories for newspapers and magazines. Types of stories might include profiles, human-interest stories, lifestyle and travel stories, etc. Emphasis on workshop critiques, editing, and revision. Writing intensive. Alternate years.

ENGL 324 – Summer Journalism Institute**4 or 6 semester hours****Prerequisite: Permission of the department**

The four-week course provides in-depth training in feature writing based on a week of interviewing at a pre-selected locale. The course will combine discussion, lecture, writer-workshop, interviewing, fieldwork, revision, and extensive individual consultation. Students will workshop their stories, edit them and produce a final product.

ENGL 327 – Advanced Rhetoric and Grammar**4 semester hours**

This course focuses on grammatical terminology and structure, and offers an overview of rhetorical theory. The course will also examine the manner in which language changes as a result of social, political, and cultural influences. Fall semester even-numbered years.

ENGL 335 – Topics in Advanced Composition**2 - 4 semester hours****Prerequisite: ENGL 101E, other prerequisites may vary by section**

This course focuses on a form of professional writing for which English serves as a preparatory major. All sections emphasize critical reading and writing skills, but the form of professional writing will vary from section to section (e.g., the critical edition, the public intellectual, grant writing, etc.) Writing intensive. Every year. This course may be repeated for credit if the focus is different.

ENGL 340 – Topics in Advanced Fiction Writing**2 - 4 semester hours****Prerequisite: ENGL 240**

Repeatable course consisting of rotating subjects of interest to the developing fiction writer seeking to extend skills from English 240. Topics may include adapting fiction for other media, literary schools and their movements, the short story, the novella, the novel, flash fiction, among others. Class activities will include reading and discussing the narrative strategies and techniques of contemporary fiction as well as extensive workshop critiques of students' own work. Emphasis on dramatic structure and conflict, dialogue, and other important matters of craft. May be repeated once for credit if the focus is different. Writing intensive. Every year.

ENGL 341 – Topics in Advanced Poetry Writing

2 - 4 semester hours

Prerequisite: ENGL 240

Repeatable course consisting of rotating subjects that may be of interest to the developing poet seeking to extend skills from English 240. Topics may include poets and mentorship, poetic forms, perennial themes in poetry, poetic schools and movements, among others. Class activities will include reading and discussing the strategies and techniques of contemporary poetry as well as extensive workshop critiques of students' own poems. Emphasis on language, lineation, figural speech, and other important matters of craft. May be repeated once for credit if the focus is different. Writing intensive. Every year.

ENGL 342 – Topics in Advanced Creative Non-Fiction Writing

2 - 4 semester hours

Prerequisite: ENGL 240

Repeatable course consisting of rotating subjects of interest to the developing creative nonfiction writer seeking to extend skills from English 240. Topics may include food writing, travel narrative, literary journalism, the personal essay, the lyric essay, among others. Class activities will include reading and discussing the forms and techniques of contemporary nonfiction as well as extensive workshop critiques of students' own essays. Emphasis on defining subject and point of view, narrative technique, and other important matters of craft. May be repeated for credit once if the focus is different. Writing intensive. Every year.

ENGL 343 – Topics in Advanced Screenwriting

2 - 4 semester hours

Prerequisite: ENGL 240, THDN 240 strongly recommended

Repeatable course consisting of rotating subjects of interest to the developing screenwriter seeking to extend skills from English 240. Topics may include writing for television, for film, for the web, for video games, for the documentary, among others. Class activities will include reading and discussing the format and structure of screenplays as well as extensive workshop critiques of students' own work. Emphasis on dramatic structure, dialogue, visual narrative, and other important matters of craft. May be repeated for credit once if the focus is different. Writing intensive. Alternate years.

ENGL 344 – Summer Screenwriting Institute

4 or 6 semester hours

Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This course combines workshoping and individual conferences with instruction by professional screenwriters and producers in writing with an understanding of production considerations.

ENGL 406 – Capstone in Creative Writing

4 semester hours

Prerequisites: By permission of the instructor

Revision of major work or collection of shorter works from previous creative writing course and participation in a public reading. Includes preparation of a portfolio of writing within a single genre, multiple genres, or blended genres (fiction, poetry, script writing, and/or creative nonfiction). Students will work individually with creative writing faculty to develop and polish their writing for publication submission and movement toward further study and/or career options. Required of and open to senior creative writing minors only.