

DATE: November 3, 2023

TO: Professor Anne Marie Sowder, Chair, College Council Curriculum Committee

FROM: Curriculum Subcommittee: Professors Elizabeth Milonas, Peter Parides (chair), Lin Zhou

RE: Final Report for Proposal 23-02: Academic Minor in Creative Writing

Proposal Description: The English department proposes to establish a twelve-credit academic minor in Creative Writing consisting of two new courses and courses that already exist within the English department curriculum.

Proposal Rationale: Our students have diverse stories to share. This minor offers them the means to fulfill this need, with opportunities for self-exploration and self-examination, methods to craft the stories they want to tell, and techniques to transfer their ideas into the public realm. Writing about one's lived experiences has real-world application for professional and personal growth; this minor presents an opportunity for students to harness language authentically and impactfully. Through craft-focused study in a variety of genres, students will develop creative problem-solving, critical writing, close reading, and research skills. As a result, students who complete the Minor in Creative Writing will become more thoughtful and confident readers and writers, which will enhance their undergraduate courses across the curriculum, post-graduate work, careers, and the communities in which they are involved. In the new fiction and nonfiction courses specifically, students will develop crucial genre-specific skills in writing and narrative craft. These courses are important to the department and the college, as they will supplement our existing courses to provide a robust, competitive creative writing minor. (Nine of the eleven CUNY senior schools offer correlating fiction courses; four offer non-fiction.)

This 12 credit minor consists of the following menu of courses:

- Required Foundational course: ENG 1141 - Introduction to Creative Writing (3 credits)
- Two advanced courses in Creative Writing (6 credits)
 - ENG 2142 – Writing Poetry (3 cr, Creative Expression; Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1101 or ENG 1101 CO or ENG 1101 ML)
 - ENG 2143 – Writing for Stage and Screen (3 cr, Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1101 or ENG 1101 CO or ENG 1101 ML)
 - ENG 2144 – Writing Fiction (3 cr, Creative Expression; Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1101 or ENG 1101 CO or ENG 1101 ML)
 - ENG 2145 – Writing Non-Fiction: Memoir and the Personal Essay (3 cr, Creative Expression; Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1101 or ENG 1101 CO or ENG 1101 ML)
- One additional creative writing course selected from above OR one of the following existing courses offered by the English Department (3 credits)
 - ENG 1151: Introduction to Journalism (3 cr, Individual and Society; Prereq: ENG 1101 or ENG 1101 CO or ENG 1101 ML)
 - ENG 2001: Introduction to Literature 1- Fiction (3 cr, Creative Expression; Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1101 or ENG 1101 CO or ENG 1101 ML)

- ENG 2002: Introduction to Literature II- Drama (3 cr, Creative Expression; Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1101 or ENG 1101 CO or ENG 1101 ML)
- ENG 2002: Introduction to Literature III- Poetry (3 cr, Creative Expression; Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1101 or ENG 1101 CO or ENG 1101 ML)
- ENG 2420: Science Fiction (3 cr, Individual and Society; Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1101 or ENG 1101 CO or ENG 1101 ML)
- ENG 3402 - Topics in Literature (3 cr, Creative Expression; Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1121 or *any* 2000-level literature course AFR, ENG, LATS)
- ENG 3403 - One Major Writer (3 cr, Creative Expression; Writing Intensive; Prereq: ENG 1121 or any 2000-level literature course AFR, ENG, LATS)
- ENG 2720: Writing with New Media (4 cl hours; Prereq: ENG 2700 or instructor permission)
- ENG 3760 - Digital Storytelling (4 cl hours; Prereq: ENG 2720 or instructor permission.)

The following changes are included in this proposal:

- Creation of new course: ENG 2144: Writing Fiction
- Creation of new course: ENG 2145: Writing Nonfiction: Memoir and the Personal Essay
- Changing of course name of ENG 1141 from “Creative Writing” to “Introduction to Creative Writing”
- Changing of course number and name of ENG 1142: Introduction to Poetry to ENG 2142: Writing Poetry
- Changing of course number of ENG 1143: Writing for Stage and Screen to ENG 2143
- Changing of catalog course description of five literature courses to indicate that students learn about authors’ creative choices in these courses.

Strengths:

To quote from this proposal, “Writing about one’s lived experiences has real-world application for professional and personal growth.” The creative problem-solving, critical writing, close reading, and research skills that students learn in the writing and literature courses in this program are transferable to just about every baccalaureate program at this college.

Weaknesses:

None.

Subcommittee Activities:

After communicating a set of initial thoughts and recommendations to the proposers, the subcommittee and proposers met with Provost Brown, Dean Vazquez-Poritz, and Kim Cardascia on October 24. Additional suggestion for improvement were offered at this meeting. Those recommendation are reflected in the final proposal.