Program: Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing
Course Number: WR 500
Course Name: MFA Residency
Terms Offered: Fall & Spring
Course Location: Cascades

Credits
This course combines approximately 360 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 12 credits. Students are required to take four residency courses to graduate.

Instructor names and contact information:

Prerequisites, Co-requisites and Enforced Prerequisites: None

Course Catalog Description: MFA Residency. Required course for graduate students in the Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing.

Students are required to participate fully in the entire residency for award of the term’s credit and the MFA degree.

Course Description
Our biannual ten-day residencies offer intensive instruction in the craft, community, and vocation of creative writing. Course work includes creative writing workshops, craft seminars, literature seminars, and special topics electives in the craft and vocation of creative writing.

Course Specific Measurable Student Learning Outcomes
In general, students will:
1) Apply a rich and articulate understanding of the artistic praxis to their own creative work as well as creative work by professional writers.

2) Make conscious artistic choices in the delivery of their work and analyze why they made those choices.

3) Apply a rich understanding of the contemporary creative writing profession, as evidenced by their relationship with their mentor.

4) Demonstrate an ability to meet deadlines, turn in professional quality work, and engage the literary community.

5) Analyze their ability to be self-directed.
**Methods of Instruction**
Direct Instruction
Cooperative Learning
Workshop
Reflection

**Course Content**

*Note: There is some difference in the fall and spring residency schedules. I have included the spring residency schedule template here as an example of the daily break-down over a ten-day residency period.*

**Day 1:** Orientation & Welcome, How To Make The Most Of The Residency Talk

**Day 2:** Creative Skill Share, Special Topics Electives, Literary Seminar

**Day 3:** Workshop, Public Event

**Day 4:** Creative Skill Share, Special Topics Electives, Craft Seminar

**Day 5:** Compositional Improvisation, Literary Seminar, Workshop Dinner

**Day 6:** Workshop, Craft Seminar, Second-Year Artist Talks

**Day 7:** Workshop, Collaboration & Installation Workshop

**Day 8:** Creative Skill Share, Workshop, Writers Life Talk

**Day 9:** Project Plans, Collaboration & Installation Workshop

**Day 10:** Cleanup and goodbye ritual

**Evaluation of Student Performance**

Students will be graded on effort made in creating new work based on assignments, readings and discussions; the effort made in revising existing work; and the thoughtfulness, articulation, clarity and effort put into discussing the work of their peers. Grading will take into consideration the frequency, spirit, and content of response, but participation will be mostly graded on quality of analytic thought and creative inquiry and willingness to stretch and push one’s writing abilities.

*25% Participation*

Students are evaluated on their ability to discuss student work in a group setting; describe how creative writing techniques are at work in writing by their peers; compare writing to earlier writing by the same student and analyze development; and participate in conversation about topics raised during group discussion.*
15% Letter of Introduction & Writing Sample

Students are evaluated on their original work and their ability to articulate the choices they made in creating this original work.

40% Project Plan

Students are evaluated on their ability to think critically and robustly about their artistic praxis and how it can be enacted in writing, reading, thinking, and living; describe their own sense of mentorship and how it might function in their writing lives; and assess their needs and goals for artistic process and production in the upcoming mentorship term.

20% Prerogative of Instructor

Grading

The grading scale is shown below in percentages:

- 93 – 100% = A
- 90 – 92% = A-
- 87 – 89% = B+
- 85 – 86% = B
- 80 – 82% = B-
- 77 – 79% = C+
- 73 – 76% = C
- 70 – 72% = C-
- 67 – 69% = D+
- 63 – 66% = D
- 60 – 62% = D-
- Less than 60% does not Pass the Course

Please note: A grade-point average of 3.00 (a “B” average) is required: 1) for all courses taken as a degree-seeking graduate student, and 2) for courses included in the graduate degree or graduate certificate program of study. Grades below “C” (2.00) cannot be used on a graduate program of study. A grade-point average of 3.00 is required before the final oral or written exam may be undertaken.

Learning Resources

Learning resources vary according to the MFA Residency. These include texts for purchase and readings available online via our Canvas Course Site. There will be both required and optional learning resources. There may be handouts given at the residency based on individualized student needs. Please also bring notebooks, journals, writing implements and laptops: whatever you need to take good notes and start new writing drafts during class. (Please bring one notebook or pad from which you can easily remove single pages.)

Course Policies

We create a safe and nurturing space in which students from a diversity of backgrounds can realize their full potential as writers.

We work together as a community to enable individual success, and to create interpersonal interactions that support the dignity and difference of individuals and their work.

We create a climate that values the diversity of ethnicity, race, gender and gender identity, nationality, age, language, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, ability, political affiliation, and other unseen differences.
We work together to conduct creative, scholarly, and professional research in an ethical manner.

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities**
Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

**Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct**
http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses-0

**Diversity Statement**
The College of Liberal Arts strives to create an affirming climate for all students including underrepresented and marginalized individuals and groups. Diversity encompasses differences in age, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, physical or mental ability, religion, socioeconomic background, veteran status, sexual orientation, and marginalized groups. We believe diversity is the synergy, connection, acceptance, and mutual learning fostered by the interaction of different human characteristics.

**Religious Holiday Statement**
Oregon State University strives to respect all religious practices. If you have religious holidays that are in conflict with any of the requirements of this class, please see me immediately so that we can make alternative arrangements.

**University Policy Concerning Weapons**
The carrying and use of weapons on the OSU campus is strictly prohibited. This includes permitted concealed weapons. This policy applies to all OSU controlled properties and facilities, including classroom buildings, administrative buildings, and parking areas (including College Way). The complete OSU weapons policy can be found at http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_500/OAR_576/576_065.html