

# Graduate Writing

**Department Goals**

The Graduate Writing Program guides the developing talents of advanced students in the complex practice of writing as a verbal art. Students in Graduate Writing will...

- Produce the most compelling work of fiction, poetry, or creative non-fiction at this stage of their career.
- Make their way in a profession that involves teaching or other institutional affiliations.
- Locate their own writing and that of their contemporaries within an international arena of 20th century world literatures.
- Focus on practical critical issues within the student's work vital to his or her practice.
- Demystify their perception of the professional world of writing and literature.

# Graduate Writing

<b>First Year</b>		<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Degree Requirements</b>
WRIT600/601	Prose/Poetry Workshop I/II	4.0	4.0	
WRIT750	Literary Seminar	3.0	6.0	
WRIT640	Translation Seminar	3.0	—	
WRIT789	Visiting Writers Lectures	2.0	2.0	
WRIT 760	Publishing Practices (optional year-long course)			
Total Credits per Semester		12.0	12.0	
<b>Second Year</b>		<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>	
WRIT700/701	Prose/Poetry Workshop III/IV	4.0	4.0	
WRIT750	Literary Seminar	6.0	6.0	
WRIT789	Visiting Writers Lectures	2.0	2.0	
WRIT 760	Publishing Practices (optional year-long course)			
Total Credits per Semester		12.0	12.0	
<b>Third Year</b>		<b>Fall</b>		
WRIT790	Thesis	4.0		
Total Credits per Semester		4.0		

## Course Descriptions

### Prose/Poetry

#### Workshop I/II/III/IV

WRIT600/601/700/701 4 credits/4 credits (first year) 4 credits/4 credits (second year)  
A two-year workshop sequence in the student's area of emphasis, i.e. fiction, poetry, non-fiction. Also, as part of the course, the student may meet with the program director and other graduate faculty during the semester.

#### Translation Seminar

WRIT640 3 credits  
This course is a study of literary translation and its radical impact on English-language poetry and fiction. Poetry or fiction translation is an option for the critical essay in this course. Students, in either case, acquire first-hand knowledge of literary traditions outside that of Anglo-American literature.

#### Literary Seminar I/II/III/IV

WRIT750 3 credits /6 credits (first year) 6 credits/6 credits (second year)  
These in-depth seminars focus on particular issues or currents in contemporary fiction and poetry, with topics selected from various international literary traditions (e.g., "Poetry's Public" or "The Ethics of Fiction") or monographic courses on such figures as Gertrude Stein, William Faulkner, Ezra Pound, James Joyce, or Eudora Welty.

#### Publishing Practices

WRIT760 3 credits  
An optional year-long course directed toward the contemporary world of publishing, as well as working on our writing program's literary tabloid, OR, the Otis Books/Seismicity Editions imprint.

#### Visiting Writers Series

WRIT 789 2 credit/2 credit  
A bi-weekly lecture series featuring visiting poets, fiction writers and essayists from the U.S. and abroad who read and discuss their own work and aspects of contemporary literary culture. A question and answer period follows each talk.

### Thesis

WRIT790 4 credits  
A publishable, book-length work of fiction, poetry or creative non-fiction is supervised by the department chair or faculty. The completed work is submitted to a faculty committee of the student's choosing for final approval.

## Department Faculty

### Paul Vangelisti

*Chair*  
MA, ABD, USC; BA, Univ. of San Francisco. Author of more than twenty books of poetry. Translator, journalist, and former Cultural Affairs Director at KPFK Radio. NEA Translator Fellow and NEA Poetry Fellow.

### Guy Bennett

*Professor*  
PhD, BA (French) UCLA. Author of four books of poetry, most recently *Drive to Cluster* (2003). Noted translator from French.

### Brian Blanchfield

*Senior Lecturer*  
MFA, Warren Wilson Coll.; BA, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Author of *Not Even Then* (2004), published by the UC Press in the New California Poetry Series. Poet and critic.

### Peter Gadol

*Associate Professor*  
AB Harvard Coll. Author of five novels, most recently *Silver Lake* (2009), *The Long Rain* (1997) and *Light at Dusk* (2000). Work has been translated into several languages.

### Lewis MacAdams

*Senior Lecturer*  
MFA Univ. of Iowa; BA Princeton. Author of ten books of poetry, including *The River* (2005). Engaged in current Los Angeles scene through a strong interest in social and environmental issues.

### Douglas Messerli

*Senior Lecturer*  
MA, PhD Univ. of Maryland; BA Univ. of Wisc. Writer of fiction, poetry, and drama, as well as editor of Sun & Moon Press, now Green Integer Books, one of the country's foremost publishers of new writing.

### Dennis Phillips

*Senior Lecturer*  
BFA, Cal Arts. Former director of the Beyond Baroque Literary Center, Venice. Author of numerous books of poetry, including *Sand* (2002) and *Credence* (1996). His poetry forces the reevaluation of contemporary genres and aesthetics.

### Martha Ronk

*Senior Lecturer*  
PhD Yale Univ.; BA Wellesley Coll. Shakespeare scholar and author of numerous poetry collections, most recently *In a Landscape of Having to Repeat* (2004, PEN USA award in poetry), and *Why/Why Not* (2003).

### Benjamin Weisman

*Senior Lecturer*  
BFA Cal Arts. Writer and visual artist, author of two collections of short fiction, *Headless* and *Dear Dead Person*. Solo shows of his art in the U.S. and abroad. Hosts "New American Writing Series" at UCLA Hammer Museum.

### Jen Hofer

*Senior Lecturer*  
B.A. Brown University. MFA, Iowa University . Poet and translator Jen Hofer's recent publications include *sexoPuro* and *sexoVELOZ* and *Septiembre*, a bilingual edition of books two and three of the lifelong project *Dolores Dorantes* by Dolores Dorantes, *lip wolf*, a translation of Laura Solórzano's *lobo de labio*, *Sin puertas visibles: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry by Mexican Women*, *slide rule*, and the chapbooks *Laws and Lawless*. Forthcoming are *The Route*, an epistolary and poetic collaboration with Patrick Durgin, *Laws from Dusie Books*, and a book-length series of anti-war-manifesto poems from Palm Press titled *one*.

### Ben Ehrenreich

*Senior Lecturer*  
Studied religion at Brown University . His articles and essays have been published in *L.A. Weekly*, *the Village Voice*, *The Believer*, *the Los Angeles Times*, and *the New York Times*. His fiction has appeared in *Bomb*, *McSweeney's*, *Black Clock*, *Swink*, and elsewhere. His work has been reprinted in anthologies including *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2004*, *The Believer Book of Writers Talking to Writers*, and *Notes from Underground: The Most Outrageous Stories from the Alternative Press*. *The Suitors*, was published in 2006 by Counterpoint Press.