

MINORS

CREATIVE WRITING MINOR

Our Mission:

The Creative Writing minor offers art and design students an opportunity to give voice and shape to their creativity through a variety of written expressive forms. The minor provides guidance and support to students in a structured environment to develop their writing, and an exciting way to explore their personal visions through workshops and lectures.

Participating Departments:

Program Learning Outcomes

Otis College Interdisciplinary Studies: Creative Writing Minor Program Learning Outcomes are action words describing our approach to learning, and what we commit to our students.

Creative Writing Minor Students Will:

Grow

Creative Writing Minor student work will demonstrate: Disciplinary Knowledge and Skills An understanding of genre and an exploration of writing in multiple forms. Proficiency in Industry-Standard Skills, Technologies, and Processes Ability to identify and employ writing techniques and habits of revision, workshop, and close reading that allow critical thought and expression.

Dare

Creative Writing Minor student work will demonstrate: Innovation Ability to combine writing with studio work in one's major and/or push boundaries between each field. Experimentation and Play with language and narrative. Challenge to the Status Quo Willingness to challenge dominant worldviews and be flexible with ideas.

Reflect

Creative Writing Minor student work will demonstrate: Self-Awareness Cultivation of self-awareness through reflective writing, reading, revision, and peer feedback. Capacity to Communicate (Orally, Written, and/or Visually) about their Practice Ability to clearly articulate the relationship between creative writing and their major and how these studies will help them achieve personal and professional goals. Analysis of Both Ethical and Aesthetic Impacts of Art and Design Understanding of meaning, justice, and community in literature and in personal writing practice.

Connect

Creative Writing Minor student work will demonstrate: Ability to Work Well, Collaborate, and Build Relationships across Differences in Identity, Perspective, Aesthetics and Disciplines Ability to collaborate with writers and thinkers, exchanging ideas across differences in identity, perspective, aesthetic, and discipline. Integration of Skills and Concepts: Recognize the political and social elements of a text and demonstrate multiple critical approaches. Experiment with the relationship between text and image and identify intersections between writing and one's chosen major.

Shine

Creative Writing Minor student work will demonstrate: Ability to define aspirations, future goals and their role within the creative economy. Defined aspirations, future goals and one's role as both a writer and maker within the creative economy. Awareness of audience and ability to cultivate relationships with others in their chosen fields. Developed awareness of audience and ability to nurture relationships in creative writing communities. Compelling presentation and exhibition skills, through Annual Exhibition, Capstone, and portfolios. Successful completion of the Creative Writing Capstone project that resonates with intended audiences. Proficiency in budgeting, time and project management. Ability to budget time to write and develop creative projects. Career readiness. Ability to advocate for your work, submitting projects for publication, exhibition, performance, or any opportunity to share with a community of readers and writers.

Course Descriptions

LIBS 212 - Creative Writing Workshop I (3.00)

An introduction to the experience and practice of writing fiction and poetry. Includes visits by guest writers in a workshop setting. Students produce a portfolio of writing in revised and publishable form. This course is restricted to students who have submitted a writing sample to the Liberal Studies Department. Required for Creative Writing minors.

LIBS 312 - Creative Writing Workshop II (3.00)

Creative Writing Workshops offer art and design students an opportunity to give voice and shape to their creativity through a variety of written expressive forms. The Creative Writing Workshop II provides guidance and support in a structured environment for students enrolled in the minor to develop their writing and explore their personal visions through workshops and lectures. Creative Workshop I & II are required for Creative Writing Minors.

LIBS 316 - Creative Writing Elective (3.00)

A limited choice of Upper Division Liberal Studies elective courses will count as Creative Writing Minor Electives, as determined each semester by the Interdisciplinary Studies Director, LAS Chair, and Creative Writing Minor Head. Creative Writing Minor Electives cover a range of literature and writing topics such as Reading Visiting Writers, Screenwriting Shorts, Food Memoirs, Translation/Multilingual Writing, and Human Nature (climate narratives).

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LIBS 442 - Capstone: Creative Writing (3.00)

The Liberal Studies Capstone experience is a required senior-level course designated to facilitate students' critical reflection on a topic that intersects with their own studio practice, discipline, and/or identity. As the signature course and culminating expression of the Liberal Studies Program, the class design allows for independent research and private mentoring through Blended classes that meet both in-person and online. This asynchronous format encourages students to apply the skills they've accrued during their time at Otis College to a project that can advance their understanding of their career path and chosen industry. A minimum grade of C- or better on the Capstone paper and course is required to pass. Students who earn a D will automatically be enrolled in the 1-unit Spring semester Continuation class to raise their grade to passing. Note: Creative Writing, Art History, Sustainability minors, and Fine Arts majors take specific Capstones. Please see department for courses. Students who have a dedicated capstone for their major will complete one capstone course that combines both their major and minor.

Electives

Course Title	Course Number	Credits
Creative Writing Workshop I	LIBS 212	3.00
Creative Writing Workshop 1	LIBS 214	3.00
The Book as Art(work)	LIBS 314	3.00
Food Memoir	LIBS 314	3.00
Art through LA	LIBS 314	3.00
How Fiction Works: A Workshop	LIBS 314	3.00
How Fiction Works	LIBS 316	3.00
ST: Design Lab	INTR 330	3.00

Elective Descriptions

LIBS 212 - Creative Writing Workshop I (3.00)

How does one transform the great chaos of experiences, obsessions, dreams, ideas, and observations into compelling literature? This course will explore a variety of methods for making that transformation possible. In addition to weekly writing assignments and a final project, you will be asked to read widely, take creative risks with exercises, and create community through avid participation in class discussions. Refining the ability to discuss peer work will be as important as developing one's own writing. Our focus in this course will be on a specific genre of storytelling—what's known as Flash Fiction or Short-Shorts. These stories are shorter than traditional short stories. They're very short stories, generally anywhere from 25 words to around 1000. Sometimes this genre is called Sudden Fiction, Microfiction, Microstories, Hint Fiction, Minisagas, Postcard Fiction, occasionally even Twitterature. In this class, we'll refer to these stories as FFSS (Flash Fiction Short-shorts). Even though these stories are short, they contain the main elements of traditional stories: a beginning, middle, and end. FFSS are compressed, the text doesn't take up much space, but always hints at a story much larger than what's on the page. They provide a story framework that allows the reader to intuit the larger story and its implied meaning.

LIBS 214 - Creative Writing Workshop 1 (3.00)

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LIBS 314 - The Book as Art(work) (3.00)

The Millard Sheets Library is filled with art books, as you probably know, but you may not know that it also houses a significant collection of artists' books—that is, artworks in book form. These may take the shape of the familiar codex containing text and/or imagery, or they may be idiosyncratic objects made of varied materials that, in one way or another, engage "the book" conceptually or formally. In this course, we will review the history of this unique medium and explore the library's collection via a curated selection of items. Students will do weekly readings and reading responses, write one paper on an artist's book of their choosing, and collaborate with a classmate to create an artist's book, drawing inspiration from our explorations and discussions.

LIBS 314 - Food Memoir (3.00)

Food writer Michael Ruhlman says that two activities are unique to us as humans: cooking and storytelling. If you eliminate either of these activities from our lives, he says, our species will cease to exist, "So telling stories about food and cooking is not only natural, it's necessary for our survival." This online asynchronous course invites you to explore the food memoir and learn of its ability to present authentic stories about family and culture, history and nature, trauma and justice—all through the lens of food. You will examine food autobiographies in various formats—such as books, essays, articles, comics and graphic novels—written by authors of diverse backgrounds. By semester's end, you will write and workshop a collection of personal stories of your own that use food as a vehicle for storytelling.

LIBS 314 - Art through LA (3.00)

This course is predominantly a site visit-focused class, which requires students to participate in one week of field trips throughout Los Angeles during the week of May 18-22. This hybrid course will combine asynchronous online learning with site-specific field trips to analyze the rich relationships between art, space and community in Los Angeles. Research and case studies will include examples from art theory, historic sites, public space, architecture, landscape, urban practices and activism. At the end of the semester, in-depth tours, artist visits and workshops will examine the evolved landscapes of our contemporary city and their impact on communities and art production. Student analysis and feedback will focus on the relationships between art and space via the course texts and experiential learning activities. A detailed itinerary for daily site visits will be provided during the spring semester. This is a travel-study class that will be available OLAY (online asynchronous) during the semester, and will include 4 IN-PERSON workshops/site visits/studio visits in May. Students are REQUIRED to attend all field trips and to be available from 9am-4pm each day. Students will be responsible for their own transportation and parking fees for this course.

LIBS 314 - How Fiction Works: A Workshop (3.00)

How does a writer transform the wondrous chaos of experiences, obsessions, dreams, observations, ideas, and discourse into compelling fiction? This course will explore various methods and approaches for making that transformation possible through an examination of narrative devices in stories and novels, and through writing assignments which will invite students to take creative risks. Areas of focus will include deepening detail in imagery and language; using dialogue to advance story; understanding point-of-view and encounters with other; making the most of climate and setting, and tense and temporality; complicating conflict; and embedding social discourse and cultural criticism into fiction. The reading will be selected for its diversity in authorship, style, and subject matter. In the first half of the course, students will read short fiction and novel excerpts with relevance to the above topics;

they will read two short novels during the second half of the course. Throughout the semester, students will workshop a short story or novel chapter. For this project, students will be asked to bring together something they have long been curious about outside their experience (possibly requiring research) with something personal and particular to their lives. With permission of the instructor, students may work on graphic novels, comics, animation, games, or other narrative media

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INTR 330 - ST: Design Lab (3.00)

Upper division studio courses that facilitate student work across media, genres and disciplines, while also developing skills in interdisciplinary thinking in a supportive community. Topics vary each semester. Examples include: Design Lab, Interdisciplinary Practices, Interdisciplinary Career Pathways Fulfills studio electives.

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**The five required courses to complete the Creative Writing minor replace LAS electives. Up to one LIBS316 can replace a studio elective, with major department approval.