



## Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

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**Semester:** Spring

**Year:** 2025

**Course Prefix:** ENGL

**Course and Section #:** 2250-002

**Course Title:** Introduction to Creative Writing

**Credits:** 3

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### *Course Description*

Provides introductory instruction in practices and techniques for generating, writing, and revising original creative works in short fiction, drama, creative non-fiction, poetry, or combinations of these. Uses readings from a wide range of contemporary authors, guest speakers, and student writing to facilitate critical and aesthetic understanding of literary texts. Introduces students to the creative writing workshop process.

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### *Course Attributes*

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

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### *Instructor Information*

**Instructor Name:** Stephen Gibson

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### *Student Learning Outcomes*

1	Practice writing short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, short drama or combinations of these.
2	Contribute to a community of writers by reading and responding to writing by other class members.
3	Identify elements of craft writers use to create successful literary texts in their respective genres.
4	Appraise strategies that help writers build critical awareness of their own work.
5	Practice literary strategies established writers use to create effective texts.

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## ***Course Materials and Texts***

O'Reilly, Sally, and Jane Yeh, editors. *Creative Writing: A Workbook with Readings*. Routledge. 2023.  
ISBN 9781032036731

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## ***Course Requirements***

### **Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy**

Reading Responses: Twenty-two critical thinking responses to each chapter assigned. Five points each.

Genre Projects: An example of short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. One hundred points each.

Attendance: Random role call. One hundred points.

Workshops: Seven instances of peer review by at least two peers. Ten points each.

Final Exam: Documented submission of fiction, creative nonfiction, or poetry to an appropriate journal.

Thirty points.

Final grades are rounded to the nearest tenth and assigned the corresponding letter grade:

A = 93-100 B - = 80-82.9 D+ = 67-69.9

A - = 90-92.9 C+ = 77-79.9 D = 63-66.9

B+ = 87-89.9 C = 73-76.9 D - = 60-62.9

B = 83-86.9 C - = 70-72.9 F = 0-59.9

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### **Required or Recommended Reading Assignments**

All required readings use chapters from the course text that align with the lectures below.

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### **General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion**

#### **Part I: The creative process**

I: Stimulating creativity and imagination

2: Writing what you know

3: Writing what you come to know

#### **Part 2: Writing fiction**

4: Character

5: Setting

6: Point of view

7: Showing and telling

8: Structure and time

9: The story and your readers

10: Editing fiction

#### **Part 3: Writing poetry**

II: Introduction to poetry

12: Voice and language

13: Poetic structure

14: Rhyme and meter

15: Revising poetry

#### **Part 4: Life writing**

16: Starting out

17: Finding a form

18: Using memory

19: Versions of a life

20: Life characters

#### **Part 5: Going public**

21: Going public

22: Presenting your work

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## ***Required Course Syllabus Statements***

### **Generative AI**

The UVU English department is also keeping up with artificial intelligence chat bots such as ChatGPT. Believing the technology is here to stay, and will only grow, we feel it's important to understand both its strengths and limitations. AI is already proving its usefulness in brainstorming writing ideas, simplifying complex topics, and performing rudimentary research. We believe AI is a tool with potential usefulness for writers. However, AI is also fraught with serious issues. It possesses accuracy problems while simultaneously sounding very confident about its incorrectness. It also frequently generates fake citations and quotations. It cannot understand the complexities and contexts of human communication. Finally, the way AI is trained on other texts poses several ethical questions about copyright and intellectual theft of property (along with uncritically inheriting the biases of the texts it's trained on).

To be clear, copying the exact wording of an AI chatbot is considered plagiarism and means that a student will be held accountable for violating academic integrity. Although many citation guides are already presenting ways to properly use and cite AI, we do not currently believe that citing AI in your work is in line with the standards of academic writing that value knowing the exact author(s) or sources that informed your writing.

If you are suspected of plagiarism, the first step will always be a conversation with your instructor (in-person or via Teams). If the infraction is very minor or clearly unintentional, there may be no sanctions at all. However, a lowered grade and/or the chance to revise the paper may also be possible. In more serious cases, the assignment may receive an automatic zero.

The most serious infractions may lead to your instructor filing an incident report with the Student Conduct office. In this scenario, you have the right to appeal the report with the English department chair. Regardless of the chair's decision, the incident report remains a part of your student record at UVU. If you are unhappy with the chair's ruling, you then have the right to file an appeal with the Dean. The Dean's decision on the matter will be final.

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### **Using Remote Testing Software**

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

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## ***Required University Syllabus Statements***

### **Accommodations/Students with Disabilities**

Academic accommodations are granted for all students who have qualified disabilities. Students needing accommodations due to a disability, including temporary and pregnancy accommodations, should contact Accessibility Services at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu) or 801-863-8747, located in BA 110. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the Accessibility Services Department.

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### **Academic Integrity**

As explained in UVU's [Student Rights and Accountabilities](#) page, all students are expected "to maintain absolute integrity and high standards of individual honesty in academic work, and to observe a high standard of conduct for the academic environment." Under such expectations, the UVU English department views plagiarism as a serious offense that does not align with the university's mission and values. Our expectation is that every student's work will be their own and use outside sources in a manner that consistently gives proper credit to those sources through established academic conventions. Plagiarism has occurred if you:

- Use the exact wording of another author or source in such a manner that it appears to be your own, regardless of the form in which those words originally appeared (e.g., a book, article, lecture, web site, speech, graphic, or any other form such as an AI text generator)
- Paraphrase (put into your own words) another author's wording in a manner where the language and/or syntax is too similar to the original passage and is not properly cited
- Fail to clearly acknowledge the partial or full authorship of someone else when submitting work
- Fail to cite or quote textual resources properly, despite the instructor's attempts at educational intervention
- Fabricate false information that is not corroborated by the actual research used on a writing project
- Have someone else, paid or otherwise, write your paper or use a paper mill site that contains ready-to-use papers written by other people
- Generate and submit a paper using artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT

While the above actions can happen with intentionality to deceive, plagiarism can also happen accidentally (due to careless resource use, not using proper citation methods, and not understanding the conventions of our chosen style guide). Though intentional vs accidental is often a judgment call for an instructor, it's important to note that accidental plagiarism is still plagiarism—a serious need to address the incident arises regardless. Though the resulting consequences may vary based on the degree of intentionality, any form of plagiarism will be addressed with equal seriousness.

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### **Equity and Title IX**

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – [TitleIX@uvu.edu](mailto:TitleIX@uvu.edu) – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

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## **Religious Accommodation**

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu). If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.