



Coursebook

M.A./M.F.A. in Creative Writing
Monmouth University
Department of English

COURSE OFFERINGS
SUMMER 2021, FALL 2021, SPRING 2022

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SUMMER 2021

Special Topics: *Alpha & Omega*

Alena Graedon

EN-598-D50

Tuesday 4:30-7:00PM, Online Synchronous

Fiction

In this online graduate fiction workshop, our focus will be on the aesthetic development and critical analysis of your own original writing. By closely examining your work, we will develop a vocabulary for discussing key elements of craft, such as point of view, characterization, plot, use of setting and time, image, theme, voice, style, and diction. Our emphasis, however, will be on developing effective beginnings and endings. Students will workshop an original piece of fiction. They will also write several short creative exercises and reading responses, and they will react to one another's work in writing and workshop discussions. Final projects will consist of a second piece of fiction. We will also read and analyze a variety of relevant literary texts, paying special attention to how they begin and end.

FALL 2021

Workshops

Fiction Workshop

Alena Graedon

EN-611-50

Monday 4:30-7:20PM

Fiction

In a workshop setting, students will analyze their own short stories for intensive examination by workshop participants. Light reading may be assigned. This course may be retaken for credit.

Creative Non-Fiction Workshop

Emma Copley Eisenberg

EN-607-50

Tuesday 6:05PM-9:00PM

Non-fiction

In a workshop setting, students will analyze readings in creative non-fiction to understand and become aware of the variant forms, techniques, and approaches used. As workshop participants, students will write and analyze their own creative nonfiction pieces. This course may be retaken for credit.

Seminars

Craft Intensive Seminar: *Great Expectations*

Alex Gilvarry

EN-652-50

Wednesday 6:05PM-9:00PM

Fiction

In novel writing, the first chapter is often thought of as the most important pages of a book. It is where disbelief is suspended and where the specific world of the fictional tale is built. It is in this space where “great expectations” are shaped for what is to come. Yet so much more is established in a successful beginning, too. By reading the first 20-30 pages of select novels “blind” (i.e. without knowing the author or title), we will study what makes a successful and compelling first chapter. And toward the end of the semester, we will vote on which novel or novels we will be reading in their entirety to see if they live up to our great expectations.

Excerpts will encompass mostly contemporary fiction, across multiple genres. Some of the writers we may read include: Mary Gaitskill, Rivka Galchen, Patricia Highsmith, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Ben Lerner, Tea Obreht, Toni Morrison, Don DeLillo, E.L. Doctorow, Zadie Smith, Katie Kitamura, Michel Houellebecq, Karl Ove Knausgård, Joy Williams, Hari Kunzru, Haruki Murakami, Kazuo Ishiguro, among others.

Craft Seminar: Poetry: *Ekphrasis*

Mihaela Moscaliuc

EN-615-50

Thursday 6:05PM-9:00PM

Poetry

In this seminar we will study ekphrastic poetry and examine the art of writing poems inspired by art objects and art forms (including painting, sculpture, literature, architecture, music, dance, theater, photography and films). We will pay particular attention to how contemporary poets have pushed the boundaries of the ekphrastic “enterprise” (Gregory Pardlo), and how they reinvigorate the conversations between form and content. We will read individual poems as well as sequences and full length collections that sustain and expand the ekphrastic mode. This seminar will have a workshop component and will incorporate writing sessions, but the focus will be on savoring the rich possibilities within this (sub)genre and understanding its strategies and techniques with an eye toward employing them in our own work.

SPRING 2022

Workshops

Poetry Workshop

Mihaela Moscaliuc

EN-609-50

Tuesday 6:05PM-9:00PM

Poetry

In this seminar we will read and discuss contemporary poetry with an eye toward understanding and honing techniques in craft, and will generate and revise poems that demonstrate range and skill. Students will prepare and receive detailed feedback on the workshopped poems. In addition to producing and revising original work, students will write focused responses to some of the assigned readings and will demonstrate familiarity with the critical vocabulary and tools of poetry.

Fiction Workshop

Alex Gilvarry

EN-611-50

Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30-5:50PM

Fiction

Students will analyze in a workshop setting their own short stories for intensive examination by workshop participants. Light reading may be assigned. This course may be retaken for credit.

Creative Non-Fiction Workshop

Spring Writer-in-Residence TBA

EN-607-50

Thursday 6:05PM-9:00PM

Non-fiction

Students will analyze, in a workshop setting, readings in creative non-fiction to understand and become aware of the variant forms, techniques, and approaches used. As workshop participants, students will write and analyze their own creative nonfiction pieces. This course may be retaken for credit.

Seminar

Craft Seminar: *Unreliable Narrators*

Alena Graedon

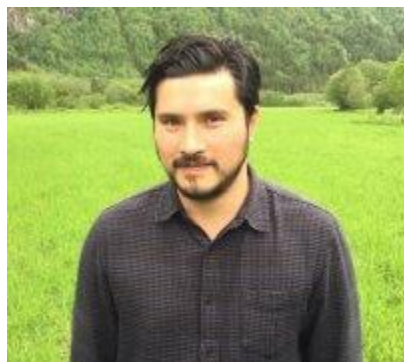
EN-611-50

Monday 4:30-7:20PM

Fiction

Students will study creative writing craft techniques through close readings, lectures, discussion, written analysis, and the rigorous application of said techniques through weekly writing exercises and short workshops. This course may be retaken for credit.

INSTRUCTORS:



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