Changes to Major in Creative Writing

Description:

The revisions to the creative writing (CRW) major outlined in the side-by-side chart are two:

1. The ENG 304, Literary Criticism, requirement becomes a choice between ENG 304, Literary Criticism and ENG 362, Genre History Theory.
2. The 6 credits of electives in CRW or ENG become:
   a. 3 credits of upper division CRW
   b. 3 credits of electives in CRW or ENG

Rationale:

The CRW program in its last self-study found that external reviewers and CRW faculty were aligned in terms of two suggested changes to the major.

First, because of the requirement of fifteen credits of ENG in the CRW major, CRW majors receive a strong grounding in the literary theory offered by the ENG faculty. The CRW faculty believe this is one strength of our program. However, students often graduate without investigating the nature and history of genre, which is at the heart of our program’s curriculum offerings in creative nonfiction, fiction, playwriting, poetry and screenwriting. By giving students a choice between an intensive theory ENG course and an intensive ENG course devoted to an investigation of genre, we may better serve both our more theoretically inclined students as well as the students focused on their own writing within genres. By privileging the ENG 362 genre course as a requirement choice, we hope to encourage the latter group of students to contextualize their own writing in terms of genre and genre history.

Second, the CRW program continues to refine the major to provide advanced CRW students opportunities for: 1) deeper engagement with multiple genres; 2) greater exposure to new media formats such as digital storytelling, and 3) more professional experiences that prepare them for various work environments for writers. In order to help ensure exposure to these opportunities, CRW is increasing the range of upper division CRW courses being offered and requiring that majors take at least one additional 3-credit upper division creative writing course. The courses currently offered at the upper division level include: Literary Citizenship, Literary Publishing, Screenwriting Rewrites, Graphic Novel, Digital Storytelling, and all advanced writing workshops. Because we feel strongly that students should have choice in terms of their ENG and CRW concentrations within the major, we plan to maintain the second three-credit elective as is (choice of either CRW or ENG upper division course).

Resources:

The above changes do not require an immediate change in resources since the offerings already exist in a regular rotation covered by existing faculty. However, the CRW faculty would like to take this opportunity to point out that we have requested a New Media/Digital Storytelling line for four of the past five years. The need was mentioned in our last self-study and was also underscored by one of our outside reviewers. Digital storytelling is now an expectation of incoming students into our program and to date we have offered it through part-time faculty. The seriousness with which we take the digital storytelling offerings is indicated by this change in our major.
CURRENT

Creative Writing Major (39-42 cr)

A. Core Requirements (24 cr)

- CRW 300 - Living Writers Series Credit: 3
- ENG 204 - Writing About Literature Credit: 3
- ENG 304 - Literary Criticism Credit: 3

Select two courses from the following:

- CRW 201 - Introductory Screenwriting Credit: 3
- CRW 205 - Poetry Writing: Introductory Credit: 3
- CRW 206 - Fiction Writing: Introductory Credit: 3
- CRW 207 - Playwriting: Introductory Credit: 3
- CRW 208 - Creative Nonfiction Writing: Introductory Credit: 3
- JLM 209 - Introduction to Newswriting/Reporting Credit: 3

Select two courses from the following:

- CRW 301 - Screenwriting: Intermediate Credit: 3
- CRW 305 - Poetry Writing: Intermediate Credit: 3
- CRW 306 - Fiction Writing: Intermediate Credit: 3
- CRW 307 - Playwriting: Intermediate Credit: 3
- CRW 308 - Creative Nonfiction Writing: Intermediate Credit: 3
- JLM 309 - Advanced Newswriting/Reporting Credit: 3

Select one course from the following:

- CRW 401 - Screenwriting: Advanced Credit: 3
- CRW 405 - Poetry Writing: Advanced Credit: 3
- CRW 406 - Fiction Writing: Advanced Credit: 3
- CRW 407 - Playwriting: Advanced Credit: 3
- CRW 408 - Creative Nonfiction Writing: Advanced Credit: 3
- JLM 498 - Journalism Internship Credit: 3

B. Electives Requirements (15 cr)

- At least nine credit hours must be 300- or 400-level English literature courses.
- C. Cognate Requirements (0-3cr)

Any approved computer and information literacy course
— OR —
passing the computer and information literacy competency exam.

REVISED (in red)

Creative Writing Major (39-42 cr) A. Core Requirements (24 cr)

- CRW 300 - Living Writers Series Credit: 3
- ENG 204 - Writing About Literature Credit: 3

Select one course from the following:

- ENG 304 - Literary Criticism Credit: 3
- ENG 362 - Genre History Theory Credit: 3

Select two courses from the following:

- CRW 201 - Introductory Screenwriting Credit: 3
- CRW 205 - Poetry Writing: Introductory Credit: 3
- CRW 206 - Fiction Writing: Introductory Credit: 3
- CRW 207 - Playwriting: Introductory Credit: 3
- CRW 208 - Creative Nonfiction Writing: Introductory Credit: 3
- JLM 209 - Introduction to Newswriting/Reporting Credit: 3

Select two courses from the following:

- CRW 301 - Screenwriting: Intermediate Credit: 3
- CRW 305 - Poetry Writing: Intermediate Credit: 3
- CRW 306 - Fiction Writing: Intermediate Credit: 3
- CRW 307 - Playwriting: Intermediate Credit: 3
- CRW 308 - Creative Nonfiction Writing: Intermediate Credit: 3
- JLM 309 - Advanced Newswriting/Reporting Credit: 3

Select one course from the following:

- CRW 401 - Screenwriting: Advanced Credit: 3
- CRW 405 - Poetry Writing: Advanced Credit: 3
- CRW 406 - Fiction Writing: Advanced Credit: 3
- CRW 407 - Playwriting: Advanced Credit: 3
- CRW 408 - Creative Nonfiction Writing: Advanced Credit: 3
- JLM 498 - Journalism Internship Credit:

B. Electives Requirements (15 cr)

Select 15 credits in CRW or ENG. Nine credits must be at the 300-400 level in ENG, three credits must be an upper-division CRW course.

C. Cognate Requirements (0-3cr)

Any approved computer and information literacy course
— OR —
passing the computer and information literacy competency exam.