

CREATIVE WRITING

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OFFICE
Nichols Hall 362
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Programs Offered

Bachelor of Arts in English Creative Writing concentration
Master of Arts in English Creative Thesis option

Creative writing is offered in the English Department. An M.A. in English with a creative thesis option is also offered. The B.A. degree is a 40-unit program, and the M.A. degree is a 34-unit program. Sequences of courses are available in fiction writing, poetry writing, screen and script writing, and nonfiction writing. Creative writing faculty includes poet **Gillian Conoley**, winner of several Pushcart Prizes for poetry, a Fund for Poetry Award, the Jerome Shestack Award from *The American Poetry Review*, and a nominee for the National Book Critics' Circle Award. She is the author of *Profane Halo*, *Lovers in the Used World*, *Beckon*, *Tall Stranger*, and *Some Gangster Pain*. Widely anthologized, her work has appeared in the Norton Anthology *American Hybrid*, several *Best American Poetry* collections, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and *Lyric Postmodernisms*. **Gillian Conoley** has taught at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Tulane University, Vermont College MFA Program, and the University of Denver. Fiction writer **Sherril Jaffe** is the winner of a PEN award and author of eight books of fiction and nonfiction, including *Scars Make Your Body More Interesting*, *One God Clapping*, *This Flower Only Blooms Every Hundred Years*, *The Unexamined Wife*, *The Faces Reappear*, *House Tours*, and *Interior Designs*, all with Black Sparrow. She is also the author of two works of literary non-fiction from Kodansha: A memoir, *Ground Rules: What I Learned My Daughter's Fifteenth Year* as well as, with Alan Lew, *One God Clapping: The Spiritual Path of a Zen Rabbi*, a *San Francisco Chronicle* best seller and winner of the Josephine Miles Award for Literary Excellence in 2000. Her stories appear regularly in such literary journals as *Zyzyva*, *Epoch*, and *The Alaska Quarterly Review*. Sherril Jaffe has also taught at the New School for Social Research in New York City. **Noelle Oxenhandler** is the author of three non-fiction books: *A Grief Out of Season*, *The Eros of Parenthood*, and *The Wishing Year, An Experiment in Desire* (Random House 2008). Her essays, which have been frequently anthologized, have appeared in many national and literary magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Vogue*, "O" Magazine, *Tricycle*, and *Parabola*. Her work has been listed in *The Best Essays of the Year* collection, and included in both *The Best Spiritual Essays of the Year* and *The Best Buddhist Essays of the Year* collections. She has been a regular guest teacher in the Graduate Writing Program at Sarah Lawrence College.

Greg Sarris, author, screenwriter, and scholar, holds the Endowed Chair in Native American Studies within the School of Arts and Humanities. Sarris has published several books of fiction and nonfiction, including the widely anthologized collection of essays, *Keeping Slug Woman Alive: A Holistic Approach to American Indian Texts*, *Watermelon Nights*, *Mabel McKay: Weaving the Dream*, *The Woman Who Loved a Snake*, and *Grand Avenue*, which was made into an HBO miniseries Sarris wrote and co-produced with Robert Redford. Sarris holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University and has previously taught at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and UCLA. He currently serves as chairman of his tribe, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

Through the Newkirk Reading Series Foundation, internationally and nationally prominent writers, publishers, and agents are invited each year to read and conduct seminars and workshops for students in the program. Visitors to the campus and the program have included Quentin Bell, Stephen Kessler, Rae Armantrout, Lawrence Weschler, David Halberstam, Ishmael Reed, Jessica Mitford, Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Charles Bernstein, Lyn Hejinian, Tom Wolfe, Yusef Komunyakaa, Czeslaw Milosz, Edward Albee, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Stephen Spender, Michael Palmer, Donald Revell, Jane Miller, James Ellroy, Wanda Coleman, Lynn Freed, and Li Yun Li.

The well-regarded student literary magazine *ZAUM* is published through the Small Press Editing course offered by the English Department every semester. Students can learn every aspect of literary editing and publishing, including layout, design, and copy-editing through this course.

VOLT is the national award-winning magazine which publishes nationally and internationally known authors. Winner of three Pushcart prizes and numerous grants, *VOLT* is committed to innovative writing. Students can work on the magazine by arrangement with instructor and through the Small Press Editing course.

The SSU creative writing program is a member of the Associated Writing Programs.

For program details, please refer to the English Department section in this catalog.