

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: New Creative Writing Class for Core Curriculum: Writing in the Contemporary World

College: LART

Department: CREATIVE WRITING

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Prof. Daniel Chacón

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.



2/12/2025

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Dr. Selfa Chew-Melendez

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature

Date




COLLEGE DEAN – Dr. Anadeli Bencomo

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

Signature

Date

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: Febr. 26, 2025  
From: Professor Sylvia Aguilar and Dr. Jeffrey Sirkin, Department of Creative Writing
Through: Professor Daniel Chacon, Chair, Department of Creative Writing 
Through: Dr. Anadeli Bencomo, Dean, College of Liberal Arts
To: Dr. Selfa Chew, Chair, LART College Curriculum Committee

Proposal Title: New CRW Class for Core Curriculum: Writing in the Contemporary World

Select the proposal content (select as many as apply) and provide the rationale.

Content

- ☐ New program or ☐ Program Change
- ☐ Bachelor's
 - ☐ Master's
 - ☐ Doctoral/Professional
 - ☐ Certificate
 - ☐ Fast Track
 - ☐ Minor
 - ☐ Concentration/Track

☒ New Course

- ☐ Closure (program, certificate, minor, concentration)
- ☐ Change
- ☐ CIP Code
 - ☐ Program/certificate SCH
 - ☐ Course Title
 - ☐ Course Description
 - ☐ Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Rationale

CRW 2373 Writing in the Contemporary World will introduce students to the vast array of writing in and about the contemporary world. By reading and writing in a variety of genres students will engage with the social, cultural, political, and economical circumstances in which we live. This class is intended for the Core Curriculum, to make creative writing available to the larger university's student body and especially to first- or second-year students outside of LART who may otherwise never get an opportunity to be introduced to the field and practice of creative writing.

Types of Instruction (Schedule Type): Select all that apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Lecture | <input type="checkbox"/> H Thesis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B Laboratory | <input type="checkbox"/> I Dissertation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C Practicum | <input type="checkbox"/> K Lecture/Lab Combined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D Seminar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O Discussion or Review (Study Skills) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E Independent Study | <input type="checkbox"/> P Specialized Instruction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F Private Lesson | <input type="checkbox"/> Q Student Teaching |

Fields below if applicable

If course is taught during a part of term in addition to a full 16-week term please indicate the length of the course (ex., 8 weeks):

TCCN (Use for lower division courses) :

Prerequisite(s):		
Course Number/ Placement Test	Minimum Grade Required/ Test Scores	Concurrent Enrollment Permitted? (Y/N)

Corequisite Course(s):	Equivalent Course(s):

Restrictions:	
Classification	
Major	

The curriculum office recommends consulting with other programs to determine whether there is significant overlap between the proposed course and any existing courses, especially when the course is part of an interdisciplinary program. Evidence of this consultation will facilitate the work of the curriculum committees.

CRW 2373

Writing in the Contemporary World

Spring 2026

Professor:

E-Mail:

Office Hours:

Overview

This course introduces students to the vast array of writing in and about the contemporary world. By reading literary pieces in a variety of genres—fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and more—students will engage with the social, cultural, political, and economical circumstances in which we live, and will learn the ways in which contemporary writers think about and respond to issues that affect our lives. Through lecture, discussion, and writing the class will investigate both literary craft and the way writers use literature as a way to reflect on the human condition.

Goals

At the end of the course the students should be able to:

1. Understand creative writing as a vehicle for social and cultural thought.
2. Read and discuss the works of contemporary writers.
3. Write critically about contemporary creative writing and events.
4. Respond creatively to issues of social and cultural relevance.
5. Work in groups to develop creative projects engaged with contemporary issues and/or personal concerns.

- ❖ Write analytically and creatively in response to the readings.
- ❖ Prepare questions for discussion.
- ❖ Work in groups to gain deeper understanding of the material read in class.

Evaluation

This course will evaluate three main activities: questions for discussion, participation, and creative assignments. The Final Grade will be determined as follows:

20% Creative Exercises. To be written in class or as homework.

20% Participation. Be present and engaged each session.

20% Midterm Presentation. Group presentation of assigned theme.

30% Final Project. A paper that includes both creative and critical writing.

10% Questions. Based on our readings

Methodology

This course is part lecture, part practice, and part discussion. Critical thinking strategies will be utilized.

Course Expectations

Reading and discussion are the two main activities of the course, therefore students should expect to:

Themes

- ❖ Immigration and the Borderlands
- ❖ Popular Culture
- ❖ Working Lives
- ❖ Writing the Self

Readings

Students can expect to read work by the following writers:

- ❖ Ben Sáenz, Alfredo Corchado, Eileen Trouax, Juan Felipe Herrera, Gabriel Dozal
- ❖ Hanif Abdurraqib, Natalie Díaz, Kendrick Lamar, Hua Hsu
- ❖ Lucia Berlin, Daniel Orozco, Mark Novak, Martín Espada
- ❖ Rosa Alcalá, Sonya Renee Taylor, Carmen Gimenez Smith, Phillip Lopate

Midterm Presentation

You will prepare a presentation in groups regarding one of the themes/authors discussed in class. Details are forthcoming.

Final Project

As a final project you will submit a piece (1800-2000 words) that includes creative and critical writing addressing one of the themes of the course and establishing a conversation with the exercises, discussions, and readings in class. Because part of our class is the idea of writing in community, you will work with one partner.

You will: 1) present a proposal, 2) find three news sources related to your topic 3) submit a final version.

Preferred Mode of Address

The Department of Creative Writing at UTEP supports students' right to define their identity in terms of name, pronoun, and mode of address. This class will provide each student the opportunity to let their preference be known, and will support and respect that preference. Should you need to discuss this issue with your instructor, make an appointment early in the semester.

Accommodations Statement:

I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations. Please, email me during the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have.

Disabilities and Protection for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University.

The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal. <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>

Texas Senate Bill 17

The recent law that outlaws diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges and universities in

Texas does not in any way affect content, instruction or discussion in a course at public colleges and universities in Texas. Expectations and academic freedom for teaching and class discussion have not been altered post-SB 17, and students should not feel the need to censor their speech pertaining to topics including race and racism, structural inequality, LGBTQ+ issues, or diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Generative AI

As this is a Creative Writing course, where one of our fundamental goals is to develop our own writing skills and strengthen our creative imaginations, the use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT are NOT PERMITTED in this course, unless otherwise noted for specific assignments.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

I encourage all students to familiarize themselves with the Office of Student Life tutorial on Academic Integrity (borrowed from the University of Maryland): <https://www.umgc.edu/current-students/learning-resources/academic-integrity/tutorial>

For more, see the UTEP Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution website: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/>

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [UTEP Technology Support](#)
- [UTEP Blackboard Help](#)
- [Purdue University Online Writing Lab](#)
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [CRW Department Undergraduate Advising and Resources](#)

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments

Academic Resources

CALENDAR

(tentative)

Week 1	Introduction to course. Writing in the Contemporary World, why, how? Ben Sáenz
Week 2	Immigration and the Borderlands Reading and Discussion: Gabriel Dozal, Alfredo Corchado
Week 3	Immigration and the Borderlands Reading and Discussion: Eileen Trouax, Juan Felipe Herrera
Week 4	Immigration and the Borderlands Writing and Discussion
Week 5	Popular Culture Reading and Discussion: Hanif Abdurraqib, Natalie Díaz Instructions for Midterm presentation
Week 6	Popular Culture Writing and Discussion: Kendrick Lamar, Hua Hsu
Week 7	Popular Culture Writing and Discussion
Week 8	Midterm Presentations
Week 9	S P R I N G B R E A K
Week 10	Working Lives Reading and Discussion: Lucía Berlin and Martín Espada Instructions for Final Project
Week 11	Working Lives Reading and Discussion: Daniel Orozco and Mark Novak
Week 12	Working Lives Writing and Discussion: Submit proposal for final project
Week 13	Writing the Self Reading and Discussion:

	Rosa Alcalá and Phillip Lopate
Week 14	Writing the Self Reading and Discussion: Sonya Renee Taylor and Carmen Gimenez Smith
Week 15	Writing the Self Writing and Discussion
Week 16	Final Project Presentations
	Final Submission:

Degree Plan

Copy and paste text (if applicable) and degree plan from catalog here

VIII. Creative Arts		
Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art. Course objectives for this component are: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork, and Social Responsibility.		
Select one of the following:		3
ART 1300	Art Appreciation	
ARTH 1305	History of Art I	
ARTH 1306	History of Art II	
CHIC 1311	Chicana/o Fine Arts Appreciat	
DANC 1304	Introduction to Dance	CRW 2373 Writing in the Contemporary World
FILM 1390	Intro-Art of Motion Pict.	
MUSL 1324	Music Appreciation	
MUSL 1327	Jazz to Rock	
MUSL 2321	Music, Culture, and Society	
THEA 1313	Introduction to Theatre	
TOTAL HOURS		3