

# 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 through both undergraduate and graduate degrees. A master of arts in English with a creative thesis option is available as a 34-unit program, and the bachelor of arts in English with a creative writing emphasis is a 40-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 National Endowment for the Arts award, 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 *The Plot Genie*, *Profane Halo*, *Lovers in the Used World*, *Beckon*, *Tall Stranger*, and *Some Gangster Pain*. Her work has been anthologized in over 20 national and international anthologies, including 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 six works of fiction, including *Scars Make Your Body More Interesting & Other Stories*, *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 non-fiction from Kodansha: a memoir, *Ground Rules: What I Learned My Daughter's Fifteenth Year* as well as, in collaboration 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. In 2010, she was awarded a fellowship to the MacDowell Colony. Her short stories appear regularly in such literary journals as *Epoch*, *Zyzyva*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and *Superstition Review*. A new novel, *Expiration Date*, will be published in 2011. Sherril Jaffe has also taught at U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Davis, San Francisco State University, and 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*, (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 non-fiction, 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 **Writers at Sonoma Series**, 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 Rae Armantrout, Yusef Komunyakaa, Lawrence Weschler, David Halberstam, Ishmael Reed, Clark Coolidge, D.A. Powell, C.S. Giscombe, Jessica Mitford, Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Charles Bernstein, Lyn Hejinian, Tom Wolfe, Czeslaw Milosz, Edward Albee, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Michael Palmer, Donald Revell, Jane Miller, James Ellroy, Wanda Coleman, Lynn Freed, and Yiyun Li. Writers at Sonoma Series is funded by Instructionally Related Activities and the Nadenia Newkirk Fund for writers.

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 copyediting through this course. A paid position for a student as senior editor is available each year.

**VOLT** is the highly acclaimed 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. VOLT is edited by poet Gillian Conoley.

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.