

CREATIVE WRITING

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OFFICE
Nichols Hall 362
(707) 664-2140

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.

Stefan Kiesbye is the author of five books of fiction. He studied drama and worked in radio in Berlin, Germany, before receiving an MFA in creative writing from the University of Michigan. His stories, poems and essays have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies. His first book, *Next Door Lived a Girl*, won the Low Fidelity Press Novella Award; the novella has also been translated into German, Dutch, Spanish and Japanese. Kiesbye's second novel, *Your House Is on Fire*, *Your Children All Gone*, was published by Penguin in 2012. It was a Top Ten pick of *Oprah Magazine*, made *Entertainment Weekly's* Must List, and *Slate* editor Dan Kois named it one of the best books of the year. It was translated into German and Spanish and is forthcoming from East Press, Japan. In Spring 2014, the literary thriller *Messer*, *Gabel*, *Schere*, *Licht* (Knife, Fork, Scissors, Flames) was published by Tropen Verlag/Klett-Cotta, Germany. *Die Welt* wrote that "Stefan Kiesbye...is the inventor of the modern German Gothic novel." His LA Noir *Fluchtpunkt Los Angeles* (Vanishing Point) was released in January 2015, and his most recent novel, *The Staked Plains*, in November 2015.

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 copy editing 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.