

ENGL 7900-001: Creative Writing Colloquium Spring 2017

Prof. John Bensko

Office: PT 411 (901) 678-3318

Office Hours for Spring 2017: to be decided

Date/time TBA; room TBA

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### **Catalogue Description**

#### **ENGL 7900 - Creative Writing Colloquium**

A course in the preparation for the MFA thesis and the MFA comprehensive exam.

3.000 Credit Hours

3.000 Lecture hours

**Levels:** Graduate

**Schedule Types:** [Lecture](#)

College of Arts and Sciences College

English Department

### **Extended Course Description**

The course provides MFA students an opportunity to prepare for the thesis and comprehensive exam. Job preparation will be addressed. Students are encouraged to suggest topics of special interest that will address their needs as they complete program requirements and prepare for careers.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- 1) Students will demonstrate knowledge of building an extensive reading list in the field of Fiction, Poetry, or Creative Nonfiction
- 2) Students will demonstrate ability to respond to questions likely to appear on the MFA exam
- 3) Students will compile and revise a manuscript fulfilling the requirements of the MFA thesis
- 4) Students will show mastery of topics to present at the MFA thesis defense
- 5) Students will produce a job application package (letter and vita) and show ability to respond positively and substantively to questions likely to be posed during an interview for a position involving teaching, literary programming, or publishing.

### **Course Objectives**

To establish a reading list between student and adviser for purposes of the MFA exam

To prepare a manuscript for the MFA thesis

To prepare for the job market by learning skills of interviewing and resume writing

### **Written Assignments:**

- 1) Reading List for comprehensive exam
- 2) Job application letter
- 3) Vita
- 4) initial draft of thesis

**Requirements/Grading**

Written assignments 60%  
Participation 40%

**Texts**

Student reading lists will vary according to texts agreed upon by student and thesis adviser. In general, 15 major influences and 15 minor influences should be represented.

**Class Schedule:** Meetings, topics, and activities will be determined by instructor and students according to needs and interests.

Attendance is required at **River City Writers Series** events

**Accommodation/Disability Statement:**

Any student who may need class or test accommodations based on the impact of a disability is encouraged to speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. Students with disabilities should also contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) at 110 Wilder Tower, 678-2880. DRS coordinates accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable and necessary academic accommodations if determined eligible by the appropriate disability services staff. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility for specific accommodations from the disability services staff. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the disability services staff and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.