Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Revision to the Major in the Science and Letters Curriculum: BALAS Creative Writing, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

SPONSOR: Jodee Stanley, Director of Creative Writing, Department of English. phone: 217-300-4315. email: jastan@illinois.edu.

COLLEGE CONTACT: Associate Dean Karen Carney, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. kmcarney@illinois.edu

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: It has been decades since the Creative Writing major requirements have been revised. With the recent approval of two new literature courses (CW 100: Introduction to Creative Writing and CW 200: Reading for Writers), both of which were successfully piloted over multiple semesters, we are ready to move those courses into the major, CW 100 as the ideal gateway into the major and CW 200 as a course the Creative Writing major would take before moving into Intermediate Creative Writing Courses like CW 204 or CW 206. We are also proposing that our majors consider taking either ENGL 218 or ENGL 418 to satisfy the major’s Shakespeare requirement. ENGL 418 is no longer a requirement for the English major, and giving students the option of taking either ENGL 218 or ENGL 418 reduces pressure on seats in ENGL 418 and gives students more flexibility in their schedules.

JUSTIFICATION: For decades, the Creative Writing major has consisted of ten courses, five in “Writing” and five in “Literature.” Aside from the 400-level Shakespeare requirement (ENGL 418), nothing directed a Creative Writing major’s choices in literature but the need for advanced hours. Since the time we started piloting CW 100 and CW 200, we intended them to serve the major in two key ways. One, their mandatory status will firm up the literature side of the Creative Writing major by giving students a couple of extra common experiences: two literature courses they will all take. Two, the courses’ mandatory status will ensure that all majors have at least two courses taught by Creative Writing faculty. This will give students course experience in intensely reading and studying literature, in addition to the courses they take now that emphasize the writing of it. Unlike English majors, who are required to take ENGL 200 (Introduction to Literary Studies) as preparation for taking literature courses at the 200-, 300-, and 400-level, Creative Writing majors lack the foundation they need to excel in the literature part of the major as it stands. The result too often is weak performance. CW 100 and CW 200, made mandatory, will strengthen the reading, writing, and interpretive skills of Creative Writing majors and encourage success in the literature part of the major.
BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: (Please respond to each of the following questions. Place your response right after each item. See Appendix A for questions required of new degree program proposals as well additional notes regarding budgetary and staff implications.)

a. Additional staff and dollars needed: None. The two courses we’re proposing as mandatory in our revised major (CW 100 and CW 200) already exist and we have been offering them regularly (CW 100 approved as a course effective Fall 2013, but piloted as RHET 199 the last three fall semesters and CW 200 approved as a course effective Fall 2013 and taught under that number F13 and Sp14, but piloted as ENGL 199 every Fall and Spring semester since Fall 1999).

b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.): The only internal reallocation that we might anticipate would occur a couple of fall semesters in the future when and if CW 100 attains General Education status. At that point we hope to offer the course as we did the first time we piloted it: 72 seats with two teaching assistants leading a total of four discussion groups.

c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments. Because we’re merely making two highly recommended literature courses mandatory, there should be no effect on other courses.

d. Impact on the University Library: None.

e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.: None.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2015
The Creative Writing major, administered by the Department of English, combines small workshops (poetry, fiction, nonfiction) and a variety of literature courses. The result is a strong but flexible program of study that develops students’ analytical and creative skills and prepares them for graduate study in any number of fields.

**Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum**

E-mail: english@english.uiuc.edu

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Minimum required core and supporting course work normally equates to 36 hours. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus, of which at least three hours must be Creative Writing Courses (CW 404 or CW 406). All Creative Writing courses must be taken in sequence (CW 104 before CW 204, etc.).

General education: Students must complete the [Campus General Education](#) requirements.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Departmental distinction: A student must enter the honors program with a 3.25 grade point average and complete two English honors seminars and a significant writing project in RHET 455. The level of distinction is assigned by the honors committee based on work in rhetoric courses and honors seminars and on the readers’ evaluations of the writing project. Interested students should consult the departmental advisor for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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| 6     | **Literature Foundational Coursework**  
* CW 100- Intro to Creative Writing  
* CW 200- Reading for Writers |
| 12    | **Creative Writing Coursework**  
Students complete 12 hours of creative writing coursework, including at least one of the following 3-course (9-hour) sequences:  
* CW 106: Intro to Poetry Writing  
* CW 206: Intermediate Poetry Writing  
* CW 406: Advanced Poetry Writing  
OR |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>CW 104</td>
<td>Intro to Narrative Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>CW 204</td>
<td>Intermediate Narrative Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW 404</td>
<td>Advanced Narrative Writing</td>
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The remaining three hours of writing coursework can be satisfied by a fourth CW workshop outside of the mandatory sequence or any of the following writing courses: ENGL 401, 402, 403, and 481; BTW 250, 261, and 271; CMN 310, 423, and 432; JOUR 475; and THEA 211.

3 Expository Writing (Advanced Composition)
   CW 243: Intermediate Expository Writing

3 Shakespeare
   ENGL 418- Shakespeare or
   ENGL 218- Introduction to Shakespeare

6 Literature Coursework:
   6 hours of English or American literature coursework chosen from approved list. See Appendix B.

6 Supporting Coursework:
   History and Culture Coursework. Choose one of the following pairs:
   CWL 241 and CWL 242: Masterpieces of West Culture I & II
   HIST 141: Western Civ to 1660 and HIST 142: Western Civ Since 1660
   HIST 171: US Hist to 1877 and HIST 172: US Hist Since 1877
   HIST 255: British Isles to 1688 and HIST 256: Great Britain Since 1688

36 Total Hours

1. Credit is not given for both CW 243 and RHET 233. Students who have taken RHET 233 prior to declaring the CW major must take CW 208- Creative Nonfiction Writing instead of CW 243 to complete this requirement. Students who take CW 208 for their Expository Writing requirement cannot count CW 208 toward the required 12 hours of Creative Writing coursework.

All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.
CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

Signatures:

__________________________
Unit Representative:

__________________________
College Representative:

October 17, 2013

______________________________
Date:

______________________________
Date:
### Appendix A:
Comparative Table of Proposed Changes
Change highlighted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Hours</th>
<th>Current Requirements</th>
<th>Proposed Hours</th>
<th>Proposed Requirements</th>
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</table>
|               |                      | 6              | Literature Foundational Coursework  
|               |                      |                | CW 100- Intro to Creative Writing  
|               |                      |                | CW 200- Reading for Writers       |
| 3             | One course in expository writing, choose from:  
|               | RHET 243 - Inter Expository Writing\(^1\)  
|               | CW 208 - Creative Nonfiction Writing        | 3              | Expository Writing (Advanced Composition)  
|               |                      |                | CW 243: Intermediate Expository Writing \(^1\) |
| 12            | Creative Writing courses selected from:  
|               | CW 104 - Introductory Narrative Writing     | 12             | Creative Writing Coursework  
|               | CW 106 - Introductory Poetry Writing        |                | Students complete 12 hours of creative writing coursework, including at least one of the following 3-course (9-hour) sequences:  
|               | CW 204 - Intermediate Narrative Writing     |                | CW 106: Intro to Poetry Writing     
|               | CW 208 - Creative Nonfiction Writing        |                | CW 206: Intermediate Poetry Writing  
|               | CW 404 - Advanced Narrative Writing         |                | CW 406: Advanced Poetry Writing     |
|               | CW 406 - Advanced Poetry Writing            |                | OR                                
|               | CW 455 - Creative Writing Tutorial          |                | CW 104: Intro to Narrative Writing  
|               |                      |                | CW 204: Intermediate Narrative Writing  
<p>|               |                      |                | CW 404: Advanced Narrative Writing   |
|               |                      |                | The remaining three hours of writing coursework can be satisfied by a fourth CW workshop outside of the mandatory sequence or any of the following writing courses: ENGL 401, 402, 403, and 481; BTW 250, 261, and 271; CMN 310, 423, and 432; JOUR 475; and THEA 211 |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Course Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>One course in Shakespeare: ENGL 300 - Writing About Literature (when offered on a Shakespeare topic) ENGL 418 - Shakespeare</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shakespeare ENGL 418- Shakespeare or ENGL 218- Introduction to Shakespeare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English and American literature courses selected from 200-, 300- and 400-level courses.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Literature Coursework: 6 hours of English or American literature coursework chosen from approved list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Six hours of supporting coursework History and Culture Coursework: Choose one of the following pairs: HIST 141 - Western Civ to 1660 (or HIST 140), and HIST 142 - Western Civ Since 1660 (or HIST 143) Or HIST 255 - British Isles to 1688, and HIST 256 - Britain and World Since 1688 Or CWL 241 - Lit Europe &amp; the Americas I, and CWL 242 - Lit Europe and the Americas, II Or HIST 171- US Hist to 1877 and HIST 172-US Hist Since 1877</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Supporting Coursework: History and Culture Coursework. Choose one of the following pairs: CWL 241 and CWL 242: Masterpieces of West Culture I &amp; II HIST 141: Western Civ to 1660 and HIST 142: Western Civ Since 1660 HIST 171: US Hist to 1877 and HIST 172: US Hist Since 1877 HIST 255: British Isles to 1688 and HIST 256: Great Britain Since 1688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Total hours</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Total hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1. Credit is not given for both RHET 233 and RHET 243. Students who have received credit for RHET 233 must take CW 208. Other students should take RHET 243.

2. With the written permission of a Creative Writing adviser, 3 of these 12 hours may be selected from the following courses: ENGL 380, 401, 402, 403, 481; BTW 250, 261, 263, 271; CMN 310, 415, 416, 417, 423, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434.
432; JOUR 475; and PHIL 102.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus, of which at least three hours must be Creative Writing Courses (CW 404 or CW 406). All Creative Writing courses must be taken in sequence (CW 104 before CW 204, etc.)

All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus, of which at least three hours must be Creative Writing Courses (CW 404 or CW 406). All Creative Writing courses must be taken in sequence (CW 104 before CW 204, etc.)

All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.
Appendix B
Literature Coursework
Students may choose courses from the following list of fulfill the 6 hours of Literature Coursework in English or American Literature. All courses are within the English (ENG) course listings.

200 Intro to the Study of Lit; 451 American Lit 1914-1945;
202 Medieval Lit and Culture; 452 American Lit 1945-Present;
204 Renaissance Lit and Culture; 459 Topics in American Indian Lit;
206 Enlightenment Lit and Culture; 460 Lit of American Minorities;
207 Romantic Lit and Culture; 475 Lit and Other Disciplines;
208 Victorian Lit and Culture; 476 Topics in Lit & Environment
209 British Lit to 1800;
210 British Lit 1800 to Present;
241 Beginnings of Modern Poetry;
242 Poetry Since 1940;
245 The Short Story;
247 The British Novel;
250 The American Novel to 1914;
251 The American Novel Since 1914;
255 Survey of American Lit I;
256 Survey of American Lit II;
259 Afro-American Literature I;
260 Afro-American Literature II;
265 Intro to American Indian Lit-
controlled by AIS 265;
280 Women Writers;
281 Women in the Lit Imagination;
286 Asian American Literature;
407 Introduction to Old English;
411 Chaucer;
412 Topics in Medieval Brit Lit;
416 Topics in Brit Drama to 1660;
421 Later Renaiss Poetry & Prose;
423 Milton;
426 Early 18th Century Literature;
427 Later 18th Century Literature;
428 British Drama 1660-1800;
429 18th Century Fiction;
431 Topics in British Romantic Lit;
434 Victorian Poetry & Prose;
435 19th C British Fiction;
441 British Lit 1900-1930;
442 British Lit Since 1930;
449 American Lit 1820-1865;
450 American Lit 1865-1914;