

Creative Writing Department Committee Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 12:45.

Members present: Dana Crotwell, Ashley Gallagher, Kim Krizan, Adrienne Sharp.

Members absent: Pete Marcoux.

SLOs and Tracdat

Adrienne Sharp has taken charge of making sure all SLOs and assessment methods are revised and put in to Tracdat. English 25A, English 24A, English 32, and English 98 (Myriad) all have current and updated SLOs and assessment modes in place, with Kevin Degnan inputting the latest SLOs for 25 and 32 as he's the only one with access to do so. Adrienne Sharp is working with Kim Krizan to update her assessment method for English 78 and then, after consultation with Kevin, Adrienne will put that into Tracdat.

English 25A (both sections, taught by Adrienne and by Ashley) will be assessed this semester.

New Courses

English 32 has been reinstated and will be taught for the first time in years this spring 2015, on Monday nights, with Ashley as instructor.

Ashley is also interested in teaching the retired creative nonfiction memoir class, and so Adrienne will contact Allison Carr to find the course outline for Ashley to review and possibly revise. Then Adrienne will help shepherd this through the CCC with Allison.

Faculty Schedules—a look ahead

Spring 2015: Eng 32 (evening), Eng 78 (evening), English 98 Myriad, Eng 25A (day)—we are missing the usual Eng 25A (evening), normally taught by Ashley

Fall 2015 tentative: Eng 25 (evening), Eng 78 (evening), Eng 25A (day), possibly Eng 24A (day)

Our concerns are that because faculty cannot teach more than one elective course per semester, we are unable to offer a full range of creative writing classes each semester. Since Ashley is teaching 32 this spring, she was not scheduled for 25A—which fills to capacity and beyond ever since she began teaching it the past two years. English 24A is not being offered at all this academic year and may or may not be offered in the fall. The ideal would be to offer one section each semester, but as the class does not always fill, we would like to offer it at least once a year. The committee would like to see a stable scheduling of creative writing classes and we propose the following:

Fall

English 25A day and evening

English 24 day

English 78

Spring

English 25A day and evening

English 78

English 32

English 98 Myriad

If demand increases for English 24, we could consider offering an evening class. Ashley would like to teach this in the evenings and Dana would like to teach day.

Recommendations to our Deans

1. Allow faculty to teach two creative writing courses along with two English 1A courses in order to make load and to keep a stable and predictable set of course offerings for our students. We recognize the tradition has been to allow faculty to teach only one elective per semester—but we have very few faculty members who want to teach creative writing and so this tradition means our students are offered few of these classes.
2. Reduce class size in creative writing courses from 35 to 30. The class size is overwhelming given the number of required written assignments that have to be read and graded. The rationale for reducing class size in English 1A, 1B, and 1C is to allow instructors to provide substantive individualized feedback on student essays. The same argument can be made for creative writing courses.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15.