CRWT 166B. Screenwriting: Outline to First Draft (4)
Lecture, 2 hours; discussion, 2 hours. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 166A/MCS 166A/THED 166A or consent of instructor. Explores the fundamentals of screenwriting. Includes story development, plotting, and characterization as they are used in creating a complete script for television or feature film. Cross-listed with MCS 166B and THEA 166B.

CRWT 166C. Screenwriting: Rewrites and Writing for Television (4)
Lecture, 2 hours; discussion, 2 hours. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 166B/MCS 166B/THED 166B or consent of instructor. Explores the fundamentals of screenwriting. Includes story development, plotting, and characterization as they are used in creating a complete script for television or feature film. Course is repeatable. Cross-listed with MCS 166C and THEA 166C.

CRWT 167A. Plays in Production (4) Workshop, 8 hours. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 164A/THED 164A or CRWT 166A/MCS 166A/THED 166A or consent of instructor. Development and preproduction of half-hour or one-hour plays written specifically for stage, soundstage, radio, television, or Web-based broadcasting. Students learn the basics of sound and video production to enhance their writing and rewriting process. Course is repeatable to a maximum of 8 units. Cross-listed with THEA 165A.

CRWT 167B. Plays in Production (4) Workshop, 8 hours. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 167A/THED 167A or consent of instructor. Advanced production and post-production of half-hour and one-hour drama (including comedy) for radio, video, or webcasting. Postproduction of previously taped shows. Course is repeatable to a maximum of 8 units. Cross-listed with THEA 165B.

CRWT 170. Advanced Poetry Workshop (4) Workshop, 3 hours; outside research, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 056, CRWT 150, CRWT 160; or consent of instructor. A workshop in poetry writing for students who wish to attempt, with criticism from class members, to fashion a significant long poem or group of poems. Course is repeatable.

CRWT 171. Anatomy of Poetry (4) Lecture, 3 hours; creative writing, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 160 or consent of instructor. An introductory study of poetics, including traditional and contemporary forms. Students write in the various poetic forms studied.

CRWT 172. Advanced Fiction Workshop (4) Workshop, 3 hours; outside research, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 056, CRWT 152, CRWT 162; or consent of instructor. A workshop in fiction writing for students who wish to attempt, with criticism from class members, to fashion a collection of stories or a novel. Course is repeatable.

CRWT 173. Prose Poem Workshop (4) Workshop, 3 hours; written work, 2 hours; extra reading, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): upper-division standing or consent of instructor. Explores contemporary prose poetry. Studies the history of contemporary essays that define the mechanics and parameters of the prose poem. Requires substantial writing and critiquing. Course is repeatable as content changes to a maximum of 8 units.

CRWT 174. Issues in Journalism (4) Lecture, 3 hours; extra reading, 2 hours; written work, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): upper-division standing or consent of instructor. Explores issues in contemporary news media, including credibility and bias, press freedom and responsibility, press-government relations, media coverage of politics, news media economics and influence on content, and race, gender, class, and news media. Course is repeatable to a maximum of 8 units.

CRWT 175. Advanced Writing for Journalists (5) Lecture, 3 hours; laboratory, 2 hours; outside research, 3 hours; extra reading, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 165 or consent of instructor. An examination of the techniques and styles representative of modern feature journalism. Writing assignments incorporate advanced reporting skills.

CRWT 176 (E-Z). The Craft of Writing (4) Lecture, 3 hours; extra reading, 1 hour; practice writing, 2-3 hours. Prerequisite(s): upper-division standing or consent of instructor. The formal study and practice of the craft of writing, its technical aspects and development through the contemporary period in the genres of poetry, fiction, playwriting, screenwriting, and journalism.

CRWT 180. Professional Poetry Poetry Workshop (5) Workshop, 3 hours; outside research, 3 hours; extra reading, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 056, CRWT 150, CRWT 160, CRWT 170; or consent of instructor. A workshop in poetry writing for students who want to study poetry at the graduate and professional level. Focuses on producing and polishing work, and discusses the professional aspect of writing, such as submitting and publishing.

CRWT 182. Professional Fiction Workshop (5) Workshop, 3 hours; outside research, 3 hours; extra reading, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 056, CRWT 152, CRWT 162, CRWT 172; or consent of instructor. A workshop in fiction writing for students who want to study fiction at the graduate and professional level. Focuses on producing and polishing work and discusses the professional aspect of writing, such as submitting and publishing.

CRWT 185 (E-Z). Special Topics in Nonfiction (4) Lecture, 3 hours; extra reading, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): upper-division standing or consent of instructor. Explores style and craft in nonfiction. E. Literary Memoir. Each segment is repeatable as its content changes to a maximum of 8 units.

CRWT 186A. Beginning Book Arts (4) Lecture, 1 hour; laboratory, 6 hours; consultation, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): upper-division standing or consent of instructor. An introduction to the elements of press operation. Using traditional letterpresses, students learn hands-on typesetting, design, material and text selection, editing, printing, and binding skills, as well as the history of the book and book design.

CRWT 186B. Intermediate Book Arts (4) Workshop, 1 hour; laboratory, 6 hours; consultation, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): CRWT 186A; upper-division standing or consent of instructor. An expanded discussion of the techniques and styles in press operation. Students build on the techniques acquired in CRWT 186A and demonstrate finished projects.

CRWT 187. Metafiction (4) Lecture, 3 hours; creative writing, take-home midterm, or term paper, 30 hours per quarter. Prerequisite(s): upper-division standing or consent of instructor. Covers postmodernism, metafiction, and the new novel in Europe and America. Creative writers submit fiction in lieu of a term paper or midterm. Cross-listed with CPLT 187.

CRWT 190. Special Studies (1-5) To be taken with the consent of the chair of the department as a means of meeting special curricular problems. Course is repeatable to a maximum of 16 units.

CRWT 191. Seminar in Creative Writing (4) Seminar, 3 hours; extra reading, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): consent of instructor; upper-division standing. Intensive study of the work of a visiting writer and poet. Students prepare individual papers for discussion. Course is repeatable to a maximum of 8 units. Minot

CRWT 195. Senior Thesis (4) Consultation, 1 hour; thesis, 3 hours; outside research, 3 hours; extra reading, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): consent of department chair. Creation of a significant piece of work under faculty supervision. Project composed in the genres of poetry, fiction, or nonfiction.

CRWT 195H. Senior Honors Thesis (4) Consultation, 1 hour; outside research, 4 hours; extra reading, 3 hours; thesis, 4 hours. Prerequisite(s): consent of Department Chair. The student works independently with a faculty member to prepare a project. For the Creative Writing major, the project may be a group of poems, a long poem, a group of short stories, a novel, or a part of a novel. For the Journalism minor, the project may be a news feature, an investigative article, or a similar story requiring significant endeavor in reporting and writing and demonstrating an understanding of sound journalistic technique.

CRWT 198-I. Individual Internship (1-12) field, 2 hours per unit. Prerequisite(s): consent of instructor; upper-division standing. Work with an appropriate professional individual or organization to gain experience and skills in any form of writing which meets with the approval of the Creative Writing Chair (e.g., journalism, radio journalism). Letter grading or Satisfactory (S)/No Credit (NC). Course is repeatable to a maximum of 16 units.

Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts

Subject Abbreviation: CRWT
College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Christopher Abani, Ph.D., Co-Advisor
Robin Russin, M.F.A., Co-Advisor
Andrew Winer, M.F.A., Co-Advisor
Program Office, 121 Arts
(951) 827-3343
creativewriting.ucr.edu/graduate

Palm Desert M.F.A.
(951) 827-6488; (760) 834-0800
www.palmdesert.ucr.edu

Professors
Christopher Abani, Ph.D. (Creative Writing)
D. Eric Barr, M.F.A. (Theatre)
Christopher Buckley, M.F.A. (Creative Writing)
Mike Davis, C.Phil. (Creative Writing)
Juan Felipe Herrera, M.F.A. (Creative Writing)
Richard Horony, Ph.D. (Theatre)
Tom Lutz, Ph.D. (Creative Writing)
Maurya Simon, M.F.A. (Creative Writing)
Susan C. Straight, M.F.A. (Creative Writing)
D. Charles Whitney, Ph.D. (Creative Writing/ Media and Cultural Studies)

Assistant Professors
Reza Aslan, M.F.A. (Creative Writing)
Charles Evered, M.F.A. (Theatre)
Rickerby Hinds, M.F.A. (Theatre)
Clare Hoffman, M.A., M.S.J. (Creative Writing)
Ethn Jaffe-Berg, Ph.D. (Theatre)
Michael Jayme, M.F.A. (Creative Writing)
Stuart Krieger, B.A. (Theatre)
Laila Lalami, Ph.D. (Creative Writing)
Robin Russin, M.F.A. (Theatre)
Andrew Winer, M.F.A. (Creative Writing)

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Robin Russin, M.F.A. (Theatre)
Andrew Winer, M.F.A. (Creative Writing)
Graduate Program

Master of Fine Arts

The Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts offers writers the ability to move fluidly within various arenas of creative writing, including the genres of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, playwriting, and screenwriting, as well as in multimedia studies. The program integrates scholarly studies of narrative, style, voice, structure, and history of these writing disciplines with traditional workshop formats, forming writers who can actively direct the literature of the twenty-first century.

Financial assistance includes teaching assistantships and fellowships, as well as fellowships for community projects through the Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts, and positions with the student-run literary magazine Mosaic.

UCR Palm Desert Center (PDGC) An M.F.A. in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts is offered at UCR’s Palm Desert Graduate Center in Regular and Low Residency programs.

PDGC Regular Program Students enroll each quarter for a per unit fee. All requirements are the same as the full-time program at Riverside. Cross-enrollment between programs is not allowed.

PDGC Low Residency Program All requirements are the same as the full-time program at Riverside, but courses are modified to fit residency requirements. Low Residency MFA students come to the Graduate Center for two ten-day sessions in the Fall and Spring quarters that include lectures, seminars, and readings (please refer to website http://www.palmdesertmfa.ucr.edu for specific dates). During the rest of the academic year, students participate in online workshops and seminars and work individually with a mentor. Cross-enrollment between programs is not allowed. Students enroll for 28 units each year and pay a per unit fee.

Admission Applicants to the program should demonstrate significant professional skill by submitting in manuscript form one of the following: 10-15 pages of poetry, a maximum of 25 pages of fiction or nonfiction, or the first act or a maximum of 25 pages of a screen play or play. Applicants must have a B.A. or B.S. degree from an accredited institution and submit letters of recommendation, a self-statement, and a project proposal. Applications are accepted for the Fall quarter only.

Plan I (Thesis) Each of the three MFA programs (Main Campus, PDGC Regular, and PDGC Low Residency program) require completion of a thesis.

Main Campus and PDGC Regular Program Consists of workshops in chosen genres, culminating in a final project (the master’s thesis) which showcases the writer’s cultivated talents, in the form of a poetry collection, novel, memoir, screenplay, or full-length play. The M.F.A. requires students to write in two genres, allowing for creative movement within disciplines. Structure and focus in screenwriting and playwriting can also be applied to fiction and nonfiction, and lyricism and metaphor in poetry can also enhance description and dialogue in the other genres, for example. Students engage in course work in varied areas of directing and acting, in film history and literature, in literary criticism and translation. Requirements consist of 56 units of course work. The core curriculum includes the following:

1. Six low residency workshop courses.
2. Six low residency seminars.
3. Four 2-unit intensive workshops.
4. Eight 1-unit colloquia.
5. Thesis. In the areas of playwriting and screenwriting, the final written project is a full-length play of two or three acts (90–120 pages) or screenplay or teleplay (approximately 120 pages). In the areas of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, the final written project is a poetry collection, novel, short story collection, or essay collection. Each student is paired with one or two faculty members who serve as the thesis advisor(s). Two faculty readers, in addition to the advisor(s), evaluate the thesis work.

Normative Time to Degree 6 quarters

Graduate Courses

See also graduate courses in the Theatre section of this catalog.

CRWT 201. The Writer’s Life: Literary Strategies and Structures (4) Seminar, 3 hours; extra reading, 1 hour; outside research, 1 hour; written work, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing or consent of instructor. Explores the artistic, practical, and professional aspects of life as a working novelist, poet, playwright, screenwriter, or essayist. Topics include publishing, literary journals, commercial magazines, the film industry, the theatre industry, agents, and overviews of genres and art. Cross-listed with THEA 201.

CRWT 230. Creative Nonfiction (4) Workshop, 3 hours; extra reading and research, 6 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing or consent of instructor. Intensive formal study of contemporary creative nonfiction, with emphasis on style, structure, and form. Primary focus is on the production of original work. Course is repeatable to a maximum of 20 units.

CRWT 246. Special Topics in Fiction (4) Seminar, 3 hours; extra reading, 3 hours; term paper, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. Explores various movements and themes in literature. Course is repeatable as content changes to a maximum of 8 units.

CRWT 250. Theory for Writers (4) Workshop, 3 hours; outside research, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing or consent of instructor. A survey of literary theory designed especially for creative writers. Focuses on aspects of various theories that might be useful for creative work. Involves a close reading of theoretical texts with a strong emphasis on issues of form.

CRWT 251. Hollywood and the Novel: The Transformation of Fiction into Film. (4) Lecture, 2 hours; screening, 1 hour; extra reading, 2 hours; outside research, 2 hours; written work, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. Explores the transformation of novels into screenplays and films. Examines four novels and their corresponding screenplays and films. Focuses on differences in style, content, and format. Course is repeatable as content changes to a maximum of 8 units.
CRWT 252 (E-Z). Theory and Craft of Writing (4)
Seminar, 3 hours; outside research, 2 hours; extra reading, 1-2 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. Analyzes writing techniques, structures, and approaches to craft in traditional, contemporary, and avant garde literary works. E. Fiction; F. Poetry; G. Nonfiction; I. Playwriting; J. Screenwriting; K. First Person. Cross-listed with THEA 252 (E-Z).

CRWT 253. Stories as Collections (4) Seminar, 3 hours; extra reading, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing in Creative Writing. Analysis of the order, shape, and structure of story collections to aid in an appreciation of characters, conflicts, and themes. Course is repeatable as content changes to a maximum of 8 units.

CRWT 255. The Graphic Novel (4) Seminar, 2 hours; studio, 2 hours; extra reading, 1.5 hours; outside research, 1.5 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. An in-depth consideration of the historical development and craft of graphic novels. Examines the intellectual, literary, and artistic evolution of this narrative form.

CRWT 257. The Sufis (4) Seminar, 3 hours; term paper, 2 hours; extra reading, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing or consent of instructor. An introduction to Sufism through an in-depth reading of the major Sufi poets. May be taken Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC) with consent of instructor and graduate advisor.

CRWT 262. Fiction (4) Workshop, 3 hours; extra writing and reading, 4 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing or consent of instructor. Intensive formal study of contemporary fiction, with emphasis on style, structure, and form. Primary focus is on production of original work. Course is repeatable to a maximum of 20 units.

CRWT 263. Fiction Workshop (4) Workshop, 3 hours; extra reading, 1.5 hours; written work, 1.5 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. A comprehensive introduction to the craft of fiction writing. Allows students to develop their abilities as fiction writers in addition to their critiquing skills of the genre. Intended for students whose primary emphasis is not fiction. May be taken Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC) with consent of instructor and graduate advisor.

CRWT 270. Poetry Workshop (4) Consultation, 1 hour; workshop, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing or consent of instructor. Intensive formal study of contemporary poetry with emphasis on style, structure, and form. Primary focus is on production of original work. Course is repeatable.

CRWT 275. Modern American Poetry (4) Lecture, 3 hours; extra reading, 2 hours; written work, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. Focuses on various modern poets. Explores their contributions to the evolution of an American poetic tradition and aesthetic. May be taken Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC) with consent of instructor and graduate advisor. Course is repeatable as content changes to a maximum of 8 units. Simon

CRWT 276. Poetry and Translation (4) Workshop, 3 hours; extra reading, 1.5 hours; outside research, 1.5 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing; reading proficiency in Spanish. Discusses the efficacy and difficulty of translating poetry from the Spanish language into English. Students read twentieth- and twenty-first century major Spanish language poets. Provides a forum to render and compare translations. Cross-listed with SPN 277.

CRWT 277. Poetry and the Sacred (4) Seminar, 2 hours; extra reading, 2 hours; outside research, 2 hours; written work, 2 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. An in-depth introduction to sacred poetic texts from antiquity to the present. May be taken Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC) with consent of instructor and graduate advisor.

CRWT 278. Contemporary American Poetry (4) Workshop, 3 hours; extra reading, 3 hours; written work, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. Focuses on influential contemporary American poets. Discusses their styles and the evolution of poetry over the last fifty years. May be taken Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC) with consent of instructor and graduate advisor. Course is repeatable as content changes to a maximum of 8 units.

CRWT 279. The Fire This Time: Twentieth-Century Poetry of Witness (4) Seminar, 3 hours; extra reading, 1 hour; outside research, 1 hour; written work, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. Examines the poetry of crises and witness written by poets in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries from America and around the world. Topics may include war, genocide; religious, ethnic, and political persecution; exile; imprisonment; ecological degradation; and domestic and urban violence in the United States.

CRWT 280. Writers’ Colloquium (1) Colloquium, 1 hour. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. Colloquia featuring writers in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, playwriting, and screenwriting. Students who present a seminar receive a letter grade; other students receive a Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC) grade. Course is repeatable to a maximum of 6 units. Cross-listed with THEA 280.

CRWT 281. Intensive Workshop (1-2) Workshop, 10-12 hours per quarter; discussion, 10-12 hours per quarter. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing or consent of instructor. Designed to both expose students to the work of contemporary writers and provide an opportunity for those same writers to respond to the students’ work. Graded Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC). Course is repeatable to a maximum of 8 units.

CRWT 283. Multigenre Workshop (4) Workshop, 3 hours; outside research, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing or consent of instructor. A peer-review workshop for students with ongoing projects in any and all genres. Focuses on student work that can profit from exposure to readings by people working in a number of different genres. Course is repeatable to a maximum of 16 units.

CRWT 285. The Literary Memoir (4) Workshop, 3 hours; extra reading, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. An in-depth survey of the literary memoir. Explores how memoirists employ craft and memory to create meaning. Asks what obligation memoirists have to drama and to real lives and places. May be taken Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC) with consent of instructor and graduate advisor.

CRWT 286. Thesis Workshop (4) Workshop, 3 hours; outside research, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing or consent of instructor. Designed for M.F.A. students working on their thesis, usually in the last two quarters of the program. Open to any and all genres. Focuses on student work, with emphasis on bringing thesis projects to conclusion.

CRWT 290. Directed Studies (1-6) Outside research, 3-18 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing; consent of instructor and graduate advisor. Literature studies, directed by a faculty member, on special topics. Course is repeatable.

CRWT 292. Concurrent Analytical Studies in Creative Writing (1-4) Outside research, 3-12 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing; consent of instructor and graduate advisor. Taken concurrently with a 100-series course but on an individual basis. Devoted to research, criticism, and written work related to the 100-series course. Graded Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC). Course is repeatable.


Professional Courses

CRWT 301. Directed Studies in the Teaching of Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts (4) Lecture, 2 hours; practicum, 1 hour; outside research, 2 hours; written work, 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): enrollment in the M.F.A. program. Prepares students for teaching introductory undergraduate Creative Writing courses by offering a flexible curriculum of meetings and conferences on effective pedagogical methodology. Students create course syllabi and lesson plans and discuss a range of practical teaching issues. Required of all TAs for at least one quarter. Graded Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC). Course is repeatable to a maximum of 8 units.

CRWT 302. Teaching Practicum (1-4) Practicum, 2-8 hours; consultation, 1-4 hours. Prerequisite(s): graduate standing. Supervised teaching in undergraduate Creative Writing courses. Credit is not applicable to graduate unit requirements. Graded Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC). Course is repeatable.