

WHAT UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES GUIDE STUDENT LEARNING IN COURSES THAT CARRY ARTS AND HUMANITIES CREDIT?

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of three hours of fine arts and three hours of humanities courses, students will understand and articulate

- Basic structures, themes, and principles of the discipline being introduced;
- Important philosophical, religious, and ethical ideas inherent in the discipline being introduced and inscribed by writers, artists, and thinkers;
- The processes by which artistic and humanistic values and aesthetics are formed and challenged over time;
- Connections among cultural achievements of various groups of people of different ethnicities, religious backgrounds, racial origins, and sexual identities.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM IN CREATIVE WRITING AND TRANSLATION INTEND TO ASSESS STUDENT LEARNING OF THESE OUTCOMES IN ENGL 2023?

The Program in Creative Writing and Translation currently oversees six sections of ENGL 2023, Creative Writing I—an approved core course in fine arts. Each section of the course is capped at 15 students, resulting in a maximum of 90 students enrolled each semester. The sections are led by instructors or teaching assistants, who are trained and supervised by the creative writing program's assistant director. Some of the issues covered during training are: time management to ensure equal coverage of genres; best practices and exercises to teach writing technique; discussion of grading strategies and rubrics; and fulfillment of the primary goals of the course.

The primary goals of ENGL 2023, as outlined in the petition to become a core course, state that students who take the course will:

- be exposed to a broad array of literary works in terms of form, style, and time period;
- develop the ability to read texts closely for content, style, and technique;
- increase their competency in writing stories and poems that are compelling, both technically and aesthetically; and
- exercise their imaginative powers and develop human empathy.

The Program in Creative Writing and Translation sees these primary goals as working toward the learning outcomes for fine arts and humanities core courses.

In order to test the success of ENGL 2023 in promoting the primary goals and learning outcomes, the creative writing program has devised a course assessment survey. The survey will be administered to all ENGL 2023 students by their instructor/TA two to three weeks before the

end of each semester. Students will be presented with eight statements and prompted to rate the course according to each statement. Ratings will be recorded on scantron forms according to a 1 to 5 system, with 1 representing “strongly disagree” and 5 representing “strongly agree.” Instructors/TAs will deliver their section’s scantrons to the assistant director, who will have all 90 surveys analyzed by the university IT Services office.

The report generated by IT Services will be delivered to the director of the Program in Creative Writing and Translation, who will determine if goals and learning outcomes are being adequately met. Action will be taken only if the surveys indicate that students are not making adequate progress toward one or more learning outcome(s). In that event, the director may institute changes up to and including:

- barring an instructor or TA from teaching the course in future semesters,
- altering training protocols for ENGL 2023 instructors and TAs, and/or
- reviewing the course curriculum to determine if deeper changes need to be made.

STUDENT SURVEY ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR ENGL 2023

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 representing “strongly agree” and 1 representing “strongly disagree,” please rate the following statements:

As a result of taking this course (ENGL 2023 – Creative Writing I)

1. I have been exposed to an array of literary works of various forms, styles, and time periods.
2. I have improved my ability to read texts closely for content, style, and technique.
3. I have increased my competency in writing stories and poems.
4. I have exercised my imagination toward development of human empathy.
5. I better understand the basic genres, principles, and techniques of creative writing.
6. I have become more familiar with the ways in which important philosophical, religious, and/or ethical ideas are expressed and explored in creative writing.
7. I have a greater understanding of how prevailing aesthetics in fiction and poetry have been formed and challenged over time.
8. I have been introduced to the stylistic and/or thematic conversation that exists between writers of various ethnicities, religious backgrounds, racial origins, and/or sexual identities