

MAPW Fall 2026 Course Descriptions

Course Information	Concentration	Certificate
PRWR 6000/001 Intro to Professional Writing Dr. Lara Smith-Sitton M 5:45 PM-8:30 PM, CRN 86464	Core Course	N/A
<p>This course introduces students to the three MAPW concentrations, focusing on key issues, theories, stylistic conventions, and research methods specific to each field and those that cut across all three concentrations. Students engage in reading and discussion, practice with rhetorical grammar and style, critique and application of research methodologies, and writing and revision strategies essential to professional writers' work. Students build foundations for completing program requirements and course work within their concentration and support areas.</p>		
PRWR 6000/W01 Intro to Professional Writing Dr. Jeanne Law W 5:45-8:30 PM (Online), CRN 86461	Core Course	N/A
<p>This course introduces students to the three MAPW concentrations, focusing on key issues, theories, stylistic conventions, and research methods specific to each field and those that cut across all three concentrations. Students engage in reading and discussion, practice with rhetorical grammar and style, critique and application of research methodologies, and writing and revision strategies essential to professional writers' work. Students build foundations for completing program requirements and course work within their concentration and support areas.</p>		
PRWR 6100/001 Readings for Writers Dr. Kurt Milberger T 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86474	All Concentrations	CW
<p>The study of writers describing their ways of writing and/or the influence of others' writing on their work. This course studies influential works and examines the application of such influence in later texts. Readings will vary across genres, such as literature, film, poetry, essays, journalism, and scientific and professional texts. In this section, we'll focus on "Worldbuilding for Writers." We'll consider the research, preparation, and influences writers use to create both fictional and realistic worlds; investigate texts set in immersive worlds; and conduct worldbuilding projects of our own. Potential readings include J.R.R. Tolkien's <i>Silmarillion</i>, Rebecca Roanhorse's <i>Black Sun</i>, and <i>Gulp</i> by Mary Roach. Students should expect to generate maps, timelines, historical surveys, character profiles, and narratives, essays, or poems set in expansive worlds.</p> <p><i>Note: This course is repeatable.</i></p>		
PRWR 6125/001 Game Narrative Design Dr. Victoria Lagrange	All Concentrations	AIWT, CW, STVW

TH 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86650		
<p>This graduate-level course explores the theory and practice of authoring game narratives. Through multiple written projects, students acquire a skill set encompassing the creation, edition, and design of interactive narratives across diverse platforms, including video games, board games, and hypertext fiction. Furthermore, students explore the interplay between narrative theory, game studies, and creative authorship through critical readings, research, and discussion. Students emerge with a portfolio that equips them to pursue writing opportunities within the industry.</p> <p>Course Learning Outcomes Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design several interactive narratives tailored for different platforms, including video games, board games, and hypertext fiction. 2. Analyze various games and the scholarship surrounding them. 3. Transfer linear narrative elements into interactive narratives. 4. Develop advanced applied and creative writing skills through a range of assignments. 		
PRWR 6141/W01 Prompt Engineering for Writers Dr. Sean Ayres TH 5:45-8:30 PM (Online), CRN 86652	All Concentrations	AIWT, CW
<p>Focusing on the rhetorical processes involved in engaging with large language models (LLMs), the course offers students advanced instruction writing inputs to elicit useful, relevant, accurate, and ethical outputs from AI. The course will involve substantial AI-infused writing to prepare students for careers as professional writers in corporate, nonprofit, and governmental organizations.</p> <p>Course Learning Outcomes Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain basic concepts of large language models. 2. Formulate and refine prompts for effective use of large language models. 3. Develop and use prompt templates that work in diverse applications. 4. Evaluate the effectiveness of prompt and response methods. 5. Describe the wider impact of LLMs on society, including their potential benefits, risks, and ethical concerns. 6. Create documents based on prompt engineering methods and generative AI outputs. 		
PRWR 6150/001 Rhetorical Theory Dr. M. Todd Harper W 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86653	Composition and Rhetoric	PEP, WIA
<p>This course examines rhetoric's central concepts and theories through a historical survey of primary texts. Students study such concepts as the rhetorical situation, argumentation, invention, arrangement, style, delivery, and memory as they are presented in works ranging</p>		

from the ancient writings of the pre-Socratics, Plato, and Aristotle to contemporary and emerging theories.

PRWR 6260/001 Managing Writing in Organizations Dr. Laura Palmer T 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86655	Applied Writing	PEP, WIA
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A foundational course introducing students to organizational writing and the planning that informs it. Students will learn to think creatively and systematically about the writing needs of businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. They will analyze the missions, constituencies, structures, and cultures of existing organizations to identify the most appropriate rhetorical strategies and products for organizations in their real-world contexts. Next, students will draft a plan for an organization, which may include a mission statement, key messages, organizational branding, a list of essential (print, electronic, audio, and video) documents, a yearly calendar of events and document releases, a budget and production plan, and a distribution plan for key documents. In addition, students will study how professional writers face situations that require ethical analysis and action to guard an organization’s mission and reputation. The course will also inform students about careers available to organizational writers and the technologies they use in performing their work.

PRWR 6440/001 Professional & Academic Editing Dr. Tamara Powell TH 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86657	Applied Writing, Creative Writing	<i>excludes STVW</i>
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PRWR 6440: Professional & Academic Editing is a hands-on course focused on the craft and profession of professional and academic editing. Blending advanced grammar study with practical application, the course prepares students to edit with organization and precision using traditional proofreading marks, digital tools, and major style guides (MLA, APA, Chicago). Through professional editing projects, client correspondence, and peer workshops, students work with complex academic texts, including references, tables, and graphical elements. This course also examines issues central to contemporary editing practice such as AI, accessibility, ethics, and visual data. By the end of the semester, students develop strong technical skills and a clear understanding of how editors support clarity, credibility, and publication-ready writing.

PRWR 6460/001 Fiction Writing I Professor Mary McMyne W 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86662	Creative Writing	CW, WIA
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This in-person seminar and workshop will introduce the form, craft, theory, and methods of workshopping short- and long-form fiction. You'll be encouraged to write and workshop short stories or a novel opening in your favorite genre (e.g. literary fiction, speculative fiction, historical fiction, horror, etc.). We'll begin the semester by reading and discussing craft in model stories and novels. Then you'll write new work inspired by those discussions. You'll develop your work with peer review, writer-led workshops for drafts-in-progress,

annotations, and traditional whole-class workshop. Our final project will involve revising a workshopped piece and researching appropriate short fiction markets or literary agents. For short stories, you'll submit the revised story to a literary journal. For novel openings, you'll create a practice submission packet to a literary agent in order to learn the process for seeking representation.

PRWR 6470/W01 Poetry Writing I Professor Jenny Sadre-Orafai M 5:45-8:30 PM (Online), CRN 86665	Creative Writing	CW, WIA
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This seminar and workshop course in the writing of poetry introduces the fundamental theories and techniques. Traditional, free verse, and other forms may be studied. Small group critique, one-to-one conferences and peer revision techniques may be used.

PRWR 6520/001 Creative Nonfiction Writing I Professor Garrard Conley W 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86671	Applied Writing, Creative Writing	CW, WIA
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What makes a story unforgettable? In this course, we'll look closely at texture--the layered effect created by a writer's choices, sentence by sentence. Texture is what makes a piece feel alive: the rhythm of a paragraph, the weight of an image, the way a voice lingers long after the last page.

Through close reading, focused craft exercises, engaging workshop conversation, and a detailed plan of revision, we'll study how structure, voice, research, and detail shape intimacy on the page. By the end of the semester, you'll have a deeper sense of how to write nonfiction that holds a reader's attention through sustained presence.

PRWR 6760/001 World Englishes Dr. Christopher Palmer T 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86965	All Concentrations	CW, PEP, WIA
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"So is the correct spelling *theater* or *theatre*? Why do Southerners say *y'all* while others say *youse*, *yins*, or *you lot*?" This course explores these questions and more, focusing on the use of different dialects of English in different professional writing contexts in the US and globally. How can research inform creative writers' use of dialect in dialogue or narrative? Or applied writers' understanding of international editing and writing conventions in publishing and other business and non-profit contexts? Or writing instructors' teaching of speakers who use one or more Englishes in academic or professional communication? And since there are so many ways to write or say something globally, who gets to decide which version of English is "standard" and "professional?"

Students will research the world of Englishes and apply that research to professional projects that interest them, including (but not limited to) analysis of writing that incorporates one or more world Englishes; original creative writing incorporating dialect in prose, poetry, stage, screen, or games; preparation of editing/style/language/cultural guides for travelers, clients,

publishers, or other organizations; or pedagogical materials for teaching with dialect in writing classrooms.		
PRWR 6850/W01 Writing for the Web Dr. Erin Bahl Online, CRN 86688	Applied Writing	WIA
<p>In this iteration of PRWR 6850: Writing for the Web, we will focus on writing and designing across multiple modes of meaning. We'll explore foundational and contemporary tools, rhetorical strategies, ethical questions, and examples for designing linguistic, video, audio, and spatial content across a range of online platforms. We'll learn about accessibility standards for online content and practice accessible design through captions, transcripts, image description, and structured page content. We'll explore current practices in social media content creation and generate content for a professional-academic audience based on an investigation of the department's social media channels. We'll look at basic web markup and design languages (such as HTML and CSS) and investigate possibilities for creating interactive narratives. Finally, we'll develop online portfolios that showcase our work as online content creators and developing professional writers.</p>		
PRWR 7600/W01 Practical Internship Dr. Peter Rorabaugh CRN 86696	*Dependent on internship	*Dependent on internship (<i>excludes AIWT</i>)
<p>If you are interested in earning graduate-level course credit for an internship, please reach out to the instructor. Your internship needs to be cleared before you can register for this opportunity.</p> <p><i>Note: Up to six hours may be used to satisfy MAPW degree requirements.</i></p>		
PRWR 7801/001 Teaching Assistant Practicum II Dr. Amanda Pratt W 4:10-6:55 PM, CRN 86694	Composition and Rhetoric	N/A
<p><i>Prerequisite: PRWR 7800 Teaching Assistant Practicum I; acceptance to the MAPW TA program</i></p> <p>Building upon theories and concepts discussed in earlier curriculum, this course affords teaching assistants an intensive, advanced investigation of selected topics derived from their experience as they serve as Teachers of Record for the first time. The course will address composition pedagogy, course design, professionalism, classroom management, assessment practices, and more. TAs will meet weekly with the Teaching Assistant Coordinator to discuss weekly class sessions, share best practices, ask questions, and participate in discussions.</p>		
PRWR 7900/01 SpTp: African American Writing Dr. Regina Bradley TH 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86700	All concentrations	CW, WIA

In this course we will examine both the writing and writing processes of 20th and 21st century African American writers. Students will read fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama by African American writers and examine how these writers construct racial identities in the United States in their work.

Note: This course is repeatable.

PRWR 7960/W01 MAPW Capstone Project

Dr. Aaron Levy
CRN 86700

N/A

N/A

Prerequisite: Completion of 27 credit hours in the MAPW program and at least four courses in the concentration; approval of capstone committee.

A project designated as a thesis, portfolio or practicum and accompanied by a rationale for its purpose and design that involves electronic and/or print media and is relevant to the student's concentration in professional writing. After submitting an approved capstone proposal, the candidate works under the direction and advice of two faculty members to produce the project.

The candidate must submit the capstone project at least two weeks before either
1) a discussion about the project with the faculty committee, or
2) a public presentation about the project or a reading from the project for an audience of faculty and peers.

Note: The candidate will consult with the capstone committee chair and committee member about which option to choose.

STVW 6490/001 Screenwriting I

Professor Albert Lee
M 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86702

Creative Writing

CW, STVW, WIA

This course introduces students to fundamental and foundational aspects of screenwriting such as traditional three-act structure, character development, plot function, dialogue, and script formatting. Students will study screenwriting theory and learn professional standards as they develop original screenplays and participate in table readings, workshopping, and peer review.

STVW 6496/001 TV Writing: One-Hour

Professor Mitch Olson
T 5:45-8:30 PM, CRN 86708

Creative Writing

CW, STVW, WIA

This course introduces students to fundamental and foundational techniques of writing one-hour television scripts. Topics include character development, six-act episode structure, A/B/C storyline function, dialogue, and formatting for one-hour TV scripts. Students will

develop one-hour pilot scripts and participate in table readings, workshopping, and peer review.