

8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC  
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL: 778.782.3925  
FAX: 778.782.5876

vpacad@sfu.ca  
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic

---

**MEMORANDUM**

**ATTENTION** Senate **DATE** February 9, 2010  
**FROM** Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP **PAGES** 1/1  
**RE:** Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Creative Writing (SCUP 10-12)

---

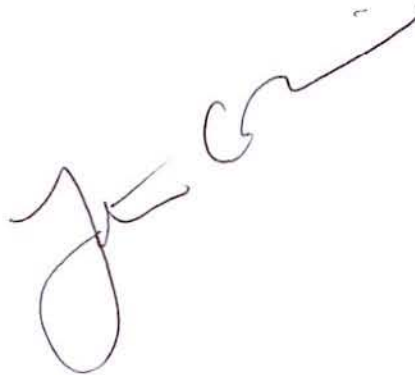
At its January 27, 2010 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Creative Writing in the Department of English within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**Motion**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Creative Writing in the Department of English within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

encl.

c: S. Collis





OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND ASSOCIATE PROVOST

8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC  
Canada V5A 1S6TEL: 778.782.4636  
FAX: 778.782.5876avpcio@sfu.ca  
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic**MEMORANDUM**

<b>ATTENTION</b>	Senate Committee on University Priorities	<b>DATE</b>	January 11, 2010
<b>FROM</b>	Bill Krane, Chair	<b>PAGES</b>	1/1
<b>RE:</b>	Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 10-02b)		

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of January 7, 2010, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the full program proposal for a Certificate in Creative Writing.

**The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.**

/.



FACULTY OF  
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMO

TO: Jo Hinchliffe, Secretary  
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Paul Budra, Chair  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee

RE: Certificate in Creative Writing (Full Program Proposal)

DATE: December 8, 2009

On November 19, 2009, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee approved the attached full program proposal for a Certificate in Creative Writing, submitted by the Department of English. The Notice of Intent was forwarded to SCUP on July 29, 2009.

Would you please place this item on the agenda of the next meeting of SCUS.

:pl  
Att.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Budra". The signature starts with a vertical line on the left, loops at the top, and ends with a horizontal line on the right.

**FULL PROGRAM PROPOSAL**  
**CERTIFICATE IN CREATIVE WRITING**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Certificate in Creative Writing provides students with extended instruction and opportunity for practice in the writing of poetry, fiction, and screenplays. It also offers instruction in theoretical approaches to writing as well as a more “applied” set of courses in editing and magazine and book publishing in Canada, providing prospective writers with skills widely applicable in the information economy.

The proposed certificate, offered by the Department of English in consultation with the Departments of Communication and Contemporary Arts, consists of a minimum of 20 units: at least two writing workshop courses (the core of the program) and four other courses from a list of 16 optional courses from the Departments of English, Communication, and Contemporary Arts.

Simon Fraser University has a long standing tradition of supporting and nurturing contemporary writing, participating in local, national, and transnational literary communities. Noted and much-lauded Canadian poets, such as the late Robin Blaser, Canada’s first Parliamentary Poet Laureate, George Bowering, and Governor General’s award winner Roy Miki, taught for many years in the Department of English; this tradition continues with current English faculty David Chariandy (whose novel *Soucouyant* was nominated for many national and international awards) and poets Jeff Derksen and Stephen Collis. Furthermore, the university has published as influential literary journal since its inception (*West Coast Line*, originally *West Coast Review*); and the university supports a vibrant Writer in Residence program with a rapidly growing endowment. Due to the profile of its writer faculty and these other programs, the university has often attracted student writers (notable in this regard is the continuous presence of a variety of student-edited and published journals, the most recent of which is *Ampersand*). However, until recently the university has had little in the way of credit creative writing courses to offer interested students, whose activities have thus largely taken place out of the classroom. The Certificate in Creative Writing is designed to meet the needs of these students.

The University of British-Columbia and the University of Victoria both offer degree programs in creative writing. Simon Fraser University’s new Certificate in Creative Writing will appeal to students interested in writing workshops that are thoroughly integrated into the study of contemporary literature (the programs at UBC and UVIC are not, emphasizing instead

the separateness of creative writing as a discipline), thus providing an emphasis on theoretical approaches to writing and writing practice for student writers with otherwise academic interests. The Certificate's courses in editing and publishing will also be of interest to writers concerned about acquiring marketable skills and a wider understanding of the creative economy they may be contemplating careers in. These interdisciplinary aspects of the program highlight its uniqueness in the field of creative writing as currently constituted in the Province.

The President's "Report to the Community 07/08" notes, in its "Focus on Arts and Culture," that the "creative economy is among the fastest growing economic sectors in the developed world, and the "President's Agenda" identifies the goal of ensuring "that SFU becomes a destination for members of the [arts] community." The vibrancy of the Writer in Residence Program, which offers one-on-one consultations to an average of over 50 students a year, speaks to the fact that SFU is already such a "destination." The Certificate in Creative Writing is designed to offer existing and prospective students an innovative interdisciplinary credit program, which will further bolster SFU as an arts "destination."

## **CURRICULUM**

### **1. Student Outcomes**

The Certificate in Creative Writing will provide SFU students with a concentration of writing workshops in a variety of genres, thus allowing students to develop their writing in a variety of specific fields. Students will be taught by practicing and widely-published writers who will be able to offer expert advice on both theoretical/aesthetic and practical/career issues. Mentorship is an important aspect of a writer's development, and the Certificate in Creative Writing will offer a structure for such mentorship.

The interdisciplinarity of the Certificate Program, which includes writing workshops, theoretical instruction in writing practices, and courses in editing and the Canadian publishing industry, further broadens the range of marketable skills students enrolled in the Program will acquire. The Certificate will appeal to all student writers looking to improve and extend their writing practice. It will also attract Faculty of Arts and Social Science students looking to acquire more "applied" skills in the creative economy, as well as Communication students wanting to add training in writing practice to their knowledge of editing and publishing practices.

### **2. Curriculum Requirements**

The courses for the certificate include two new courses approved by the Department of English: ENGL 374 (Creative Writing II: Fiction) and ENGL 472 (Advanced Creative Writing). The other

courses included in the certificate already exist in the SFU Calendar. The new courses, along with the already existing ENGL 372 (Creative Writing I: Poetry) and FPA 238 and 338 (Screenwriting I and II) form the core workshops of the program. The Certificate consists of a minimum of 20 units: at least two writing workshop courses (the core of the program) and four other courses from a list of 16 optional courses from the Departments of English, Communication, and Contemporary Arts. The latter four courses provide the program's unique interdisciplinarity, allowing students to simultaneously practice writing in the core workshops while gaining training in editing and the publishing industry, as well as engaging in theoretical issues crucial to an understanding of contemporary writing practices. A unique aspect of the writing workshops is that they too combine writing practice with reading and theoretical discussion of current practices in the field.

### 3. Course Structure

The courses required for the certificate are diverse in format, ranging from 17 student workshops to 30 student lecture/seminars.

### 4. Research Implications

The certificate is based upon the idea that writing (creative or otherwise) is related to directly research, and students will be expected to engage in research in writing workshop classes. The particular research interests of the existing tenure-track faculty teaching in the program will inform the particular course curricula; however, creative writing is rapidly becoming recognized as its own research area, and some faculty teaching in the program are involved with a new initiative to create a Canadian Creative Writers and Writing Program (CCWWP), the founding conference of which will be held in October of 2010. For faculty members teaching the workshops, "creative writing" is an integral part of their research portfolios.

## LEARNING METHODOLOGIES

Diverse learning methodologies will be in place in the different courses and departments involved in the Certificate Program. The model in the creative writing workshops emphasizes experiential learning through active writing practice, peer feedback, and professional development aspects (such as publishing and reviewing as course outcomes). As outlined above, the certificate includes training in employable skills including editing, publishing, and self-employed authorship.

## **FACULTY**

The Certificate in Creative Writing relies upon existing tenure-track faculty currently teaching the designated courses from the various disciplines identified. No additional faculty members are required.

## **PROGRAM CONSULTATIONS AND EVALUATIONS**

The certificate was discussed with Betsy Warland, director of the SFU Continuing Studies program "The Writer's Studio," as well as with the Provincial Creative Writing Articulation Committee at its May 2009 meeting. The Notice of Intent was sent to all FASS Undergraduate Chairs, and the particulars of the program were discussed with the Undergraduate Chairs of the participating departments. Without exception, the proposal met with their approval.

The Undergraduate Chair of the Department of English will consult regularly with the Undergraduate Chairs of the participating departments, and will meet with them annually to review the program. The Undergraduate Chair of English (as nominal director of the program) will maintain membership on the Provincial Creative Writing Articulation Committee, and possibly the new Canadian Creative Writers and Writing Programs Association, to ensure that the program will remain current in future years.

## **ADMISSION**

The admission requirements are the standard SFU requirements. Students would apply to the Department of English Student Advisor for admission.

## APPENDIX A: Calendar Descriptions

### CERTIFICATE IN CREATIVE WRITING

This certificate allows students to investigate the theory and practice of creative writing from a variety of approaches, including creative practice in poetry, fiction, and screen writing, and aspects of material production/publishing.

#### Admission Requirements

Normal requirements for admission to Simon Fraser University apply. Prior to formal admission into the certificate program, students must complete two of the following courses:

ENGL 207-3	Twentieth Century Literature
FPA 136-3 or 137-3	The History and Aesthetics of Cinema I or II
CMNS 110-3	Introduction to Communication Studies

#### Course Requirements

Successful completion of a minimum of 20 units, including:

- one of :
  - ENGL 372-4 Creative Writing I: Poetry
  - or ENGL 374-4 Creative Writing II: Fiction
- plus at least two courses from the following:
  - ENGL 212-3 Metrics and Prosody
  - ENGL 371-4 Writing: Theory and Practice
  - ENGL 372-4 Creative Writing I: Poetry
  - ENGL 374-4 Creative Writing II: Fiction
  - FPA 238-3 Screenwriting I
  - CMNS 371-4 The Structure of the Book Publishing Industry in Canada
  - CMNS 372-4 The Publishing Process
  - CMNS 375-4 Magazine Publishing



- plus ENGL 472-4      Advanced Creative Writing

- plus at least two courses from the following:

ENGL 454W-4    North American Poetry and Poetics

ENGL 470W-4    Studies in the English Language

FPA 319W-3     Critical Writing in the Arts

FPA 338-3      Screenwriting II

CMNS 472-4     Books, Markets and Readers

CMNS 473-4     Publication Design and Print Production

CMNS 474-4     The Business of Publishing

Of the six required courses, no more than four may be in any one department, while a minimum of two must be in English. Substitutions may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Student Advisor. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 is required in the courses used for the certificate.

## APPENDIX C: Faculty Teaching in the Program

### English:

Clint Burnham

David Chariandy

Stephen Collis

Jeff Derksen

### Communication:

Anne Ahmad

Ian Chun

Maureen Gillis

Bob Mercer

### Contemporary Arts:

Michelle Adams

Colin Browne

Patricia Gruben