

# PROSE AND POETRY, MFA PUBLISHING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIZATION

Students enrolled in the publishing and professional development specialization will pursue studies designed to immerse them in the milieu of contemporary literary publishing where artistic and commercial exigencies are sometimes at odds. Courses are taught by faculty with hands-on, professional experience in the book industry.

## Curriculum

### Course

### Title

#### Writing Workshops in genre (5 units)\*

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| MCW 411-0/411-DL | Poetry Workshop               |
| MCW 413-0/413-DL | Fiction Workshop              |
| MCW 461-0/461-DL | Creative Non-Fiction Workshop |
| MCW 479-0/479-DL | Poetry for Prose Writers      |
| MCW 480-0        | Prose for Poets               |

#### Teaching Writing (1 unit)

|            |                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| MCW 570-DL | Seminar on Teaching Creative Writing |
|------------|--------------------------------------|

#### Publishing and Professional Development courses (4 units)

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| MCW 575-0/575-DL | Seminar on Journal Publishing          |
| MCW 576-0        | Seminar in Publishing: The Industry    |
| MCW 579-0        | Practicum in Teaching Creative Writing |
| MCW 580-0        | Practicum in Publishing                |

*Any other related Publishing and Professional Development courses identified by the SPS Graduate Office*

**Graduate-level literature courses taken from LIT, ENGLISH, COMP\_LIT, or other departments of literary study (2 units)**

#### Elective (1 unit)

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| MCW 490-0/490-DL | Special Topics in Creative Writing         |
| MCW 499-0        | Independent Study (not to exceed one unit) |

Students may request permission to take an additional Publishing and Professional Development course, graduate-level literature course, or writing workshop as their elective\*\*

#### Capstone Writing (2 units)

|           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| MCW 589-0 | Capstone Preparation and Writing |
| MCW 590-0 | Capstone Writing & Revision      |

\* Students must take writing workshops in the genre identified during the admissions process.

\*\*Students may not take more than six workshops total.

## About the Thesis

The final project of the MFA program is a creative thesis, an original work of high literary merit (judged on the basis of art as well as craft). Prose work should be at least 140 double-spaced pages and no more than 170 pages. Poetic work should be between 35-50 single-spaced pages, with each poem on separate pages. The creative thesis is structured and revised under the supervision of a faculty member (or faculty mentor) and a second reader. The project may be one long piece or a series of

shorter pieces. It may include or be an expansion of work written during the student's course of study as long as it represents a culminating effort to shape stories, prose pieces, a long piece, or a group of poems into a coherent, self-sufficient work. This large-scale project supplements the smaller-scale study of craft with the invaluable experience of creating a larger work. And for students who plan to pursue book-length publication after graduation, the master's creative thesis may be the first version of a work in progress. (Note: Students may not take writing workshops alongside thesis.)