

The Graduate Manual

Online Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Degree

Table of Contents

<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>	3
Our Purpose and How You Fit In	3
Statement of Purpose	3
Mission Statement.....	3
<i>Section I</i>	5
Getting Started on Your Degree Program.....	5
Financing Your Graduate Degree	6
Academic Policies That May Affect You	6
<i>Section II</i>	8
Important General Information	8
<i>Section III</i>	10
Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Degree Requirements	10
Degree Options for the "Culminating Experience"	11
Participation in Commencement.....	13
<i>Section IV</i>	14
Specific Procedures for Culminating Experience Options	14
The Thesis	16
A Final Word	18
Appendix A: Online Graduate Thesis Process Proposal Approval	19
Appendix B: Course Descriptions	23
Appendix C: Protocol for Oral Defense of Thesis.....	28
Appendix D: Thesis Cover Page.....	30

The Manual

A Set of Guidelines for Masters Students
in the Online Master of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing Program at Liberty University

Welcome to the Online Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Degree Program!

Introduction

The information in this manual describes the procedures you need to follow as you work towards your online Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing at Liberty University. In the appendices, you will also find several important documents and samples of forms referred to in this document. While the information contained in these guidelines is intended to be specific and helpful, you may have some questions not specifically addressed here. In such cases, please reach out to the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Sarah Rice (scschafer@liberty.edu), who can offer additional guidance on academic policies and regulations.

Our Purpose and How You Fit In

The online graduate program is a community of scholars dedicated to integrating the Christian faith into their study and work in the discipline of English. Our challenge is to integrate theory, practice, and research in the field of English within a decidedly Christian worldview.

Statement of Purpose – College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences provides learning opportunities in the academic disciplines relating to mankind's cultural, social and scientific achievements. Through general education courses in the College of Arts and Sciences, all Liberty University students receive instruction in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics and thereby are better prepared to respond effectively to the issues of contemporary life.

Mission Statement – Department of English

The graduate program in the Online Department of English supports advanced critical inquiry into the nature and practice of literature, language, writing, and criticism relevant to both teaching and non-teaching fields. The primary goal for the graduate program is to enable students to engage in meaningful research and writing, grounded in a biblical worldview, which will contribute significantly to their own study as well as to the discipline.

One of your first and continuing challenges in the program will be discovering the ways in which your faith informs your study, especially how biblical principles can be brought to bear in your reading, writing, and research. In your classes and in informal discussions, you will ask and be asked a number of questions about the Christian faith and your field. For example: How should your faith in Jesus Christ affect your approach to the study of literature? How should your faith affect what you write? Are there specific biblical boundaries, guidelines, and principles that a Christian teacher, writer, or literary scholar should keep in mind?

Why do we try to achieve this integrative focus? Our goal is to produce graduates who have a scholarly attitude and ability, professional proficiency, intellectual grounding in the Christian faith, and a strong Christian testimony as evidenced in word and deed.

Section I

Getting Started on Your Degree Program

Professional Academic Advising for Your Online Degree Program

Once you have officially begun your Liberty University online classes, a trained team of professional academic advisors is available to answer your questions about a wide variety of online college degree programs. Consider them your personal liaisons with the university — they stay current with updates to programs, processes, and the student experience. They will help you keep moving smoothly through your online program.

Some residential or online colleges and universities limit you to a specific advisor for your online college degree program. At Liberty University, there is a full team of trained academic advising professionals who are happy to assist you whenever you need help. Academic advisors trained in your specific online degree program are waiting for your chat, email, or phone call.

Phone: [\(800\) 424-9596](tel:8004249596) (Graduate, Post-Graduate, and Doctoral Advising)

Email: luoadvising@liberty.edu

Website: <https://www.liberty.edu/online/academic-advisors/>

Advising Information

1. Prior to your application and potential acceptance into the program, you should feel free to discuss the program with the Director of Graduate Studies.
2. After receiving your acceptance letter from the Graduate Admissions Office, you should correspond with an academic advisor to discuss your schedule for the first semester and sequential semesters.
3. Thesis-track students will need to select a committee chairperson and one reader who will serve as their Thesis Committee. The thesis committee selection process is elaborated on later in this manual. However, it is important to note that at the time the thesis committee is selected, the chair of the committee will become your new advisor and will oversee your progress until the completion of your degree.

Planning and Advising

While faculty and advisors will provide help in planning your academic programs, you are responsible for the overall planning of your graduate school career and for the accurate completion of your degree program plan. Therefore, you should become familiar with academic requirements and procedures as set forth in the Liberty University Graduate Catalog and in this manual.

You should take the initiative for academic advising assistance and should consult with your advisor regularly concerning your academic program.

One last word on advising: it's always a good idea to meet with an advisor with a general plan. Before going to your advisor to register, sketch out the courses you must take (according to the "M.A. Degree Completion Plan") or would like to take, considering especially how each course fits in your overall degree plan. Ultimately, it is your responsibility, not your advisor's, to ensure you follow a plan that will allow you to fulfill all of the degree requirements for the M.A. program.

Financing Your Online Graduate Degree

Liberty University Student Financial Services

Planning how to pay for college can be challenging. LUO can help guide you through the financial aid process and provide assistance with your student account. Please take some time to review financial services information online at <https://www.liberty.edu/online/student-financial-services/> or contact Student Financial Services at [\(434\) 582-2270](tel:4345822270).

Academic Policies that May Affect You

Grading, Transcript, and Transfer Policies

All policies and procedures as stated in the *Liberty University Graduate Catalog* apply unless otherwise stated.

Grading

The Master's student standing in each course will be indicated by the following letter grades: A (excellent); B (good); C (satisfactory); and D (failure). Students must maintain a 3.0 average for all graduate work accomplished. Up to two courses receiving the grade of "C" will count towards graduation requirements as long as the student maintains a 3.0 average overall. Courses receiving the grade of "D" will not count towards graduation requirements and must be repeated. The grading scale for the graduate program is as follows:

A		940	to	1000
A-		920		939
B+		900		919
B		860		899
B-		840		859
C+		820		839

C		780		819
C-		760		779
D+		740		759
D		700		739
D-		680		699
F		679 and Below		

You should make every effort to finish your work in regular courses according to the schedule set out in the course syllabi or announced by your professors. The "I" or "Incomplete" grade is to be used only in the extremely rare cases of medical emergencies. An "I" grade will automatically revert to an "F" grade after the date agreed upon on the medical incomplete form unless you have completed the work in the course.

Overall GPA Required for Graduation

To successfully complete the program, students must earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all work attempted.

Transfer Students

With approval from the Department's Director of Graduate Studies, students may transfer in up to 50% of the degree total. Transfer courses receiving credit should be compatible with graduate course offerings.

Section II

Important General Information

Director's Invite

The Director of Graduate Studies invites students to email to discuss the challenges, joys, and problems associated with their pilgrimage at Liberty University. It is the desire of the Director of Graduate Studies to do everything within reason to help you accomplish your goals through the program.

Evaluation of the College, Faculty, and Courses

The department encourages student feedback about classes and programs. We consistently seek to improve instruction, services, and the organizational culture of the department. Accordingly, students can give input regarding the program through the student evaluation survey that they will fill out at the end of every course. Teaching faculty use student comments in the process of course improvement, self-assessment, and in preparation of their Professional Portfolio review.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism encompasses more than the use of printed sources without giving proper credit. It means handing in as your own and/or failing to properly cite writing that someone else has composed, revised, edited, or proofread. Accordingly, the following guidelines are set down, and each student must study and understand them from the outset. The instructor will assume, after pointing out and discussing this policy, that the student will be responsible for understanding and applying it.

Penalties for plagiarism will be severe: an "F" on an assignment without opportunity to do it again and up to an "F" for the course.

1. Any fact not common knowledge, any idea, phrase, or paraphrase taken from a printed source, from a lecture, sermon, or radio broadcast must be documented.
2. Any work submitted will be understood to be the work of the student submitting it and his or her work alone. Taking credit for someone else's proofreading ability, suggestions, ideas, or words is plagiarism. An exception to this definition is group work assigned and directed by the instructor. Unless the instructor assigns such work, students should do their own writing, revising, and proofreading.
3. If a student has availed himself of the services of a tutor, officially designated by the university or unofficially, it will be understood that the tutor will confine his or her services to helping a student develop and express his or her own thoughts, making suggestions to help the student fulfill the assignment guidelines, and supplementing the work that the professor does with the student in conferences and class. A tutor's proper role is not to do a student's work or to

supply specific words, phrases, or ideas. The student bears responsibility for his or her own work, neither submitting a tutor's work as his or her own or blaming errors on the tutor.

4. If the student submits a paper typed by someone else, it will be understood that the typist has not changed anything from the student's script or rough draft. The student may not blame the typist for errors not corrected on the draft given to the instructor.

5. "Self-plagiarism" is when a student submits written work from another course or another context as if it is original work for a current writing assignment. This is not acceptable.

Professional Presentations and Papers

As a part of your development as a scholar and thinker, you are encouraged to make the best work from your class assignments count for more than just your degree. Whether you go into teaching, continue toward a doctoral degree, or seek a professional position with an organization, you will find it advantageous to list on your curriculum vita all the professional presentations you have made or publications you have completed. Your professors will be delighted to advise you regarding the further development of your papers and which venues might be the best places to submit them.

Section III

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Degree Requirements

Description of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Degree

A Master of Fine Arts degree, or MFA, is a terminal degree in an artistic craft that demonstrates that you have achieved the highest level of training and skill in your discipline. Like a doctorate, an MFA often allows you to teach courses at the graduate level while also providing many opportunities for scholarship and leadership in education. Career opportunities for graduates include but are not limited to the following: author, book and magazine writer, business communications specialist, creative writing instructor, publications editor, screenwriting, website copy editor and writer, and writing manager.

Outcomes and Learning Objectives

The MFA in Creative Writing program is designed to help you learn to be an excellent creative writer across the genres of creative fiction, non-fiction, screenwriting, and poetry. You will learn how to produce aesthetically and culturally engaging creative works while gaining professional knowledge and practice. You will also study foundational contemporary literature so that you have a background in studying important works to draw on for your writing. To help you in your professional writing, you will also study many essential skills like editing, layout, and the business of publishing so that you can best position yourself for success in the market.

Within this degree, you'll learn vital components of composition and rhetoric, including how to:

- Market your projects and receive new writing opportunities
- Write compelling stories that engage readers
- Organize writing and adapt it to different types of writing
- Tailor writing to specific audiences and markets
- Determine what makes art effective, compelling, and impactful

Curriculum

Overview of Program: Forty-eight (48) graduate hours are required for the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing.

Area 1: Foundational Courses (12 hours)

Four required core courses must be taken to fulfill the 12-hour requirement in this area.

ENGL 600	3	Editing and Publishing
ENGL 601	3	Writing as Cultural Engagement
ENGL 612	3	Contemporary Literature
WRIT 501	3	Research Methods & Bibliography

Area 2: Core Creative Writing Courses (12 hours)

Four required core courses must be taken to fulfill the 12-hour requirement in this area.

WRIT 610	3	Writing Fiction
WRIT 611	3	Writing Poetry
WRIT 612	3	Creative Nonfiction
WRIT 613	3	Creative Screenwriting

Area 3 – Workshop Courses (6 hours)

Choose 6 credit hours from the following courses (Workshop courses are repeatable):

WRIT 650	3	Fiction Workshop
WRIT 651	3	Poetry Workshop
WRIT 652	3	Creative Nonfiction Workshop
WRIT 653	3	Creative Screenwriting Workshop

Area 4 – Creative Writing Elective Courses (9 hours)

Choose four courses from the following: WRIT 650, 651, 652, 653, any Graduate level ENGL course, or any approved writing Elective. Workshop courses are repeatable.

Area 5 – Thesis Courses (9 hours)

WRIT 688	3	Research Seminar
WRIT 689	3	Thesis Proposal & Research
WRIT 690	3	Thesis Defense

Recommended Sequence

<u>First Semester</u>		<u>Second Semester</u>	
ENGL 600	3	ENGL 612	3
ENGL 601	3	WRIT 611	3
WRIT 501	3	WRIT 612	3
<u>WRIT 510</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>WRIT 613</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	12	Total	12

<u>Third Semester</u>		<u>Fourth Semester</u>	
Creative Writing Elective	3	Creative Writing Elective	3
Creative Writing Elective	3	Creative Writing Elective	3
WRIT Elective		<u>WRIT 689</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>WRIT 688</u>	<u>3</u>	Total	9
Total	12		

3

<u>Fifth Semester</u>	
WRIT 690	3
Total	3

Descriptions of Graduate Level English Courses are found in Appendix B.

Degree Options for the Culminating Experience

A thesis is required for the MFA in Creative Writing.

Writing the Thesis

For this requirement, you will be assigned a chair for your thesis committee. The chairperson must possess special expertise in the area of your project. With the counsel of that chairperson, you then need to recruit one additional faculty member to serve on the committee as reader. The thesis committee must include two graduate faculty members, at least one from the department of English and no more than one from a discipline related to your thesis. All committee members must be approved as graduate faculty of the University.

The thesis chair will guide you through the process of proposing, writing, and defending your thesis. In order to complete the thesis you must (1) pass an oral defense of the thesis proposal; (2) pass an oral defense of the completed thesis; (3) provide a final electronic copy to the Library and, if desired, bound copies of the thesis for yourself and/or your committee chair or members. A copy of the Graduate Thesis Proposal Form is found in Appendix A.

GRADUATION PLANS. It is the graduate student's responsibility to plan and meet the deadlines. Please work with your Thesis Chair to coordinate a schedule that meets all deadlines.

The average thesis will be approximately 100-125 pages; however, the final number of pages will be determined by the selected genre (see Section IV). Your chair and thesis committee members will have many suggestions for you during the process, which will involve many revisions and rewrites.

The Graduate Writing Center

The Graduate Writing Center serves to assist graduate students in the writing process, for class papers and theses. The Center also offers special workshops on various aspects of writing. Be sure to take advantages of these workshops, especially if it becomes apparent that you need some development in specific areas of your writing.

Faculty Load and Service on Thesis Committees

Faculty time is a limited and valuable resource. Because of high student interest at unpredictable times for the thesis, the department cannot guarantee that faculty members will be available to chair or serve on all proposed theses or portfolios committees at any given time. Accordingly, in order to ensure proper monitoring of these intensive projects and to maintain high academic and professional standards, the department reserves the right to oversee and change (when necessary) any committee's membership, given limited faculty resources. Please choose and obtain your committee early in the thesis writing process.

Participation in Commencement

In order to participate in Commencement you must:

1. File an application to graduate in Academic Services by the designated deadline.
2. Meet program requirements to graduate.

We urge you to plan your thesis defense with your faculty committee chairpersons well in advance of deadlines.

(*While the above requirements are applicable at the time of this writing, these department guidelines are subject to the academic regulations as published in the Academic Regulations section of the University catalog, as amended from time to time.)

Your degree is not complete until the final corrected version of the thesis is accepted by the Library and the Registrar's Office is notified and sends an email to the Director of Graduate Studies that you have met all the requirements for program.

Section IV

Specific Procedures for Culminating Experience Options

The online Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing requires a thesis, which serves as a “culminating experience” required for the degree. This culminating experience presents an opportunity for the demonstration of writing and analysis using a theory or method of research and requiring application of concepts learned throughout the student’s academic program of study.

The Thesis

Nature and Purpose

Creative Writing students are required to write a thesis. A thesis is intended to demonstrate your ability to successfully carry out original research and enable you to master the craft of writing in the chosen genre to a publishable level. Through your creative writing courses and workshops, you will develop your craft and generate creative works so that you will be ready for your capstone project. This capstone project will build off of these workshops, allow you to demonstrate your writing achievements, and provide you with a guided process to help you complete a cohesive creative work.

As the capstone to your work in the MFA program, the thesis should present your strongest creative works. The thesis should draw from original works previously written and revised in classes and workshops, but the final product should be a significant expansion and development of that earlier work. Therefore, thesis hours should be used to polish existing work and create new writing deemed appropriate. The thesis may be any genre but must present a cohesive creative work in any of the following genres: poetry, fiction, nonfiction, creative screenwriting, creative essays, a novella, chapter(s) of a novel, a memoir, or a hybrid or mixed-form work that is unified in support of a similar theme, style, etc.

The thesis must be book length, which is defined here as 45-55 pages of poetry or 90-100 pages of prose. The thesis must be accompanied by a Critical Paper of 10-15 pages (2,500-3,700 words). In addition, the thesis must include an Artist Statement and Works Cited/Reference page.

Development and Defense of the Thesis Proposal

Your proposal must receive the approval of your committee before you begin to write. All creative projects should be written in accordance with The Liberty Way.

See: <https://www.liberty.edu/students/wp-content/uploads/sites/89/2022/10/The-Liberty-Way.pdf>. Directors and students have the responsibility to ensure that the thesis projects avoid content that involves profanity, explicit or implicit erotic/sexual scenes, nudity, gratuitous

violence, relationships that are not between a natural-born man and a natural-born woman, drug use, excessive bloodshed, and overtly anti-Christian messages (without redemption).

After your thesis committee approve of your project, you may begin. In WRIT 689, the proposal course, you will write your Artist Statement and Critical Paper (see below). It is important that you consult with your committee after each chapter is completed, and continue to get their input on your thesis at regular intervals throughout the process. You will work with your thesis chair in your preparation of this proposal and should submit a copy of the proposal to each committee member at least one week before the scheduled project proposal defense meeting. You should be prepared to defend your thesis proposal in a meeting that will last approximately one hour. The chairperson will open the meeting and will typically ask you to describe, in your own words, the nature and purpose of the project. Following this introduction, the committee members will question you on matters related to the project deemed significant by the committee. When the defense is completed, the committee has three options: (1) approve the project; (2) approve with revisions; or (3) reject the project. In this last instance, the committee may ask you to rewrite the proposal, write a second proposal on the same topic, or select a new topic and write a new proposal for it.

Thesis Preparation: Content and Organization

The following information highlights the major sections of the final thesis for most studies. The guidelines below may be modified by your thesis chairperson or committee; they will be your final authority for successful completion of this project. Generally, the outline that follows will govern the structure of your thesis, but your committee and committee chairperson may alter the outline below. Be sure to work with your committee so you do not have to do unnecessary rewrites. In WRIT 690, the thesis defense course, you will revise the Artist Statement and Critical Paper, but the focus will be on the creative manuscript.

The Creative Thesis

1. *Artist Statement*: an 8-10 page (2,500-3,700 word) introduction to the manuscript. This chapter should include your impetus/background, process for the work, vision for the work, literary context for the work, and meaning to you as a Christian scholar.

2. *Critical Paper: Select One Focus*

a. *Literature Review*: a 10-15 page (2,500-3,700 word) detailed examination of and research-based approach to seminal texts in your creative genre. You must include *at least* 10 primary sources and 5 secondary sources. Orient your creative manuscript within its literary tradition by analyzing similar relevant works. Detail what works from your genre have influenced your creative project and what you hope, in turn, to contribute to the field.

b. *Craft Element*: a 10-15 page (2,500-3,700 word) detailed examination of and research-based approach to a craft element of the student's choosing. You must include *at least* 10 secondary sources and 5 primary sources. Analyze comparable texts and literary traditions.

Examples of craft elements include but are not limited to exploration of authenticity, character development, realistic dialogue, plot development, pacing, dramatic structure, setting, theme, and point of view.

c. *Literature and Criticism*: a 10-15 page (2,500-3,700 word) detailed examination of and research-based approach to a literary theory of the student's choosing. You must include *at least* 10 secondary sources and 5 primary sources. Analyze applicable texts and literary theories; this chapter must focus on a discussion of the theory in your own creative manuscript. Examples of theories include but are not limited to Feminism, Post-colonialism, Marxism, Psychoanalysis, Structuralism, New Historicism, Formalism, and Postmodernism.

3. *Creative Manuscript*: a cohesive creative work in any of the following genres: poetry, fiction, nonfiction, creative screenwriting, creative essays, a novella, chapter(s) of a novel, a memoir, or a hybrid or mixed-form work that is unified in support of a similar theme, style, etc.; a poetry manuscript must be 45-55 pages, and a prose manuscript should be 90-100 pages.

4. *Works Cited/References*

Final Considerations: Although the preceding examples should be taken as general guidelines, the final configuration of chapters, length, and style of the thesis should be developed in consultation with the student and committee.

The final thesis is to be preceded by a formal title page, an abstract of no more than 150 words, dedication, acknowledgments, table of contents and a list of any tables or figures. It must be followed by a complete bibliography or reference section and appendices (if any).

Thesis Preparation: Style

As stated above, you are responsible to seek comments on each chapter of the thesis manuscript and keep each committee member informed of progress on the overall project. The thesis manuscript must be prepared according to very specific guidelines in manuscript format, grammar, style, and references. Students may use an MLA, APA, or Chicago style manual, all of which are available in the Liberty University Bookstore and University Library.

When you and your chairperson agree that the project is ready to be defended, examination copies of the written project must be provided to each committee member at least one week prior to the date you wish to have an oral defense. Examination copies should be complete, readable, and thoroughly documented. The chairperson of the project committee may poll the committee to determine the project's readiness for defense.

Thesis Defense

After the thesis is completed, you will need to defend orally your research and analysis for your Thesis Committee. Your chairperson will host the committee and will work with you and the committee member to set up a time agreeable to all. You can expect the thesis defense to last 1 to

1½ hours. Basic questions about the design of your study, outcomes of your study, and opportunities for further research in the area will be asked. You will need to be ready to defend all methodologies used and all conclusions you reach in your study. To help you prepare for your thesis defense you may wish to refer to the Defense Protocol found in Appendix C.

Guidelines for Thesis Submission

The following procedures summarize the steps through which you must move to complete your thesis requirement.

The following link provides general instructions for submitting your thesis:

<https://www.liberty.edu/library/submitting-dissertations-and-theses/>

Follow the step-by-step instructions for submitting your thesis on this site:

<https://www.liberty.edu/library/submitting-dissertations-and-theses/#dt1>

You must make any final corrections necessary, in consultation with the committee chairperson. Follow the library's instructions for submission of the electronic copy of your thesis.

A Final Word

The administration, faculty, and staff of the Department of English warmly welcome you to our community. We pray on your behalf for God's help in the challenges you will face prior to walking across the platform and receiving your degree. Remember that, although you are the main person responsible for your education at Liberty University, you are not alone. We are here to serve you, as we all rely on the Lord.

Although this manual is an effort accurately to reflect the procedures and policies governing the Master's degree program in English, the Department of English reserves the right to change any provisions in this document from time to time and hereby designates the Director of Graduate Studies program as the final interpreter of the manual's provisions.

Appendix A
Graduate Thesis Approval Process

Graduate Thesis Process

Stated Requirement

Students graduating with an MFA in Creative Writing from Liberty University will demonstrate their ability to conduct original research according to acceptable academic approaches taught within the respective discipline. The thesis requires thorough investigation of a problem area, demonstration of an appropriate methodology, clarity of thought, and a mature quality of writing. The thesis topic area must be related to the student's concentration area. The methodology used for the study must meet the approval of the committee.

During the development of the thesis, the student should use the thesis chair and thesis reader as consultants. The student should expect additions, reductions, and other modifications in the thesis design.

Style and Form

Theses submitted in their final form must conform to MLA, APA, or Chicago style. The student is responsible for making sure the thesis is in proper form. No thesis will be accepted or approved by the committee if it is not according to an acceptable style.

The student will submit one electronic copy to the Library, and if desired, bound copies of the corrected thesis for the student and/or the committee members. The Library must approve of the style and form of the thesis. Any thesis not approved by the Library will not be accepted.

Appendix B
Course Descriptions

ENGLISH COURSES

ENGL 515 *Studies in British Literature (3)*

This course offers a focused study of a specific time period, genre, or major figure in British literature.

ENGL 523 *Shakespeare (3)*

A study of selected works from the Shakespearean canon, with the chief focus each semester determined by genre (tragedy, comedy, or history).

ENGL 542 *The American Novel (3)*

Critical and cultural analysis of the American novel, with a focus on representative works from the American Renaissance to the present.

ENGL 570 *Classical Rhetoric (3)*

A study of classical skills of argumentation and persuasion, focusing on theory and application.

ENGL 600 *Editing and Publishing (3)*

This course provides students with a practical working knowledge of the fundamentals of editing and publishing for multiple contexts, modalities, and audiences.

ENGL 601 *Writing as Cultural Engagement (3)*

Theory and Practice of Writing as Cultural Engagement (3 hours) Instruction, practice, and evaluation of writing for publication in various mediums (blogs, op-eds, popular journals, online news outlets, etc.) with an emphasis on diverse audiences, rhetorical strategies, and cultural contexts. Through assessing the procedures and principles that govern 21st century writings, students will examine the process of engaging various societal outlets and apply that knowledge towards cultural artifacts.

ENGL 602 *Methods & Materials of Research (3)*

This course provides students with an introduction to graduate-level research and bibliography methods. In addition, students will practice the primary forms of writing expected of graduate students.

ENGL 603 *Literary Theory and Practice (3)*

A study of the relationship between contemporary literary theory and critical practice, with emphasis on using a variety of critical approaches to analyze literary texts.

ENGL 607 *Composition Studies (3)*

This course introduces composition studies—its theory, research, scholarship and pedagogy—and the teaching of academic composition classes. Students will engage in both theoretical and practical approaches to teaching writing. This course is required of all Graduate Teaching Assistants who plan to teach English composition classes at LU and must be taken prior to or concurrently with their first semester of teaching.

ENGL 608 *Modern Rhetoric (3)*

A study of contemporary rhetorical approaches, focusing on theory and application.

ENGL 610 *Classical Literature (3)*

An examination of literary works from around the world beginning with the earliest civilizations through the Renaissance, exploring the diversity of global literary traditions and universal themes.

ENGL 612 *Contemporary Literature (3)*

This course is a contemporary literature course with a special focus on how to read critically as a writer. It will focus on the literary craft of contemporary writers, evaluating their style as a foundation for a student's own foray into creative writing.

ENGL 633 *Advanced Grammar (3)*

Advanced Grammar will encompass the basic as well as the most complex constituents of the English language, not just in sentence structures, but in phonology, morphology, and discourse.

ENGL 634 *Etymology (3)*

This course is an advanced study of the etymology of the English language, analyzing changes in vocabulary, syntax, and development into a world language.

ENGL 637 *African-American Literature (3)*

This course is a study of selected African-American Literature from the Seventeenth-Century (including the vernacular tradition) through the present, introducing students to the literary, cultural, and historical contexts of selected works. The course focuses on each of the three major genres of poetry, prose, and drama from a representative sample of periods of African American literature - 17th Century, 18th Century, 19th Century, and 20th Century - in an attempt to show the breadth and variety of African-American literary tradition.

ENGL 654 *Methods of Teaching Writing Across the Curriculum (3)*

This course is a study of the theories, practices, and different scenarios of writing to learn, including pedagogy of using writing as a means of learning in the English classroom and within the disciplines.

ENGL 656 *World Literatures (3)*

This course is a study of selected western and non-western masterpieces from antiquity to the present.

ENGL 664 *History of the English Language (3)*

Assuming a general background in the histories of Old, Middle, and Modern English, this course focuses on the rise of English to a global language, beginning with the ages of exploration, science, and technology, and the rise of the political, economic, and cultural influences of English speaking peoples.

ENGL 688 *Research Seminar (3)*

A course for advanced academic research in English literature focusing on either a substantive research project or the first steps of a literary thesis.

ENGL 689 *Thesis Research and Proposal (3)*

This course is designed to help students complete their MA Thesis. It is expected that research for the thesis project will be relevant to the student's study in the master's program and will make an academic contribution to the research in English.

ENGL 690 *Thesis Defense (3)*

WRITING COURSES

WRIT 500 *Workplace Writing (3)*

This course will equip students with practical knowledge, skills, and abilities for professional writing in the workplace.

WRIT 501 *Research Methods and Bibliography (3)*

This course provides students with an introduction to graduate-level research and bibliography methods in professional writing. In addition, students will practice the primary forms of writing expected of graduate students.

WRIT 502 *Professional Writing in the Disciplines (3)*

This course will equip students with practical knowledge, skills, and abilities for effective professional writing in various disciplines, careers, and technical fields.

WRIT 601 *Grant Writing (3)*

A course on the process of grant writing.

WRIT 610 *Writing Fiction (3)*

This course is a study of the craft of producing publishable fiction in a contemporary setting.

WRIT 611 *Writing Poetry (3)*

A study of the techniques in producing publishable poetry and creating a variety of poetic forms.

WRIT 612 *Creative Nonfiction (3)*

A study of the various tools and techniques in the writing of creative nonfiction works including travel and food articles, memoir, biography, and creative essays.

WRIT 613 *Creative Screenwriting (3)*

This course is a study of the craft of producing creative screenwriting in a contemporary setting.

WRIT 633 *Grant Writing (3)*

This course helps students develop skill sets for writing manuals, instructions, policy documents, and technical reports in areas such as science, medicine, and engineering that require accessible information for a variety of audiences.

WRIT 650 *Fiction Workshop (3)*

This course is a fiction writing workshop designed for the revision and publication of a chosen work of fiction.

WRIT 651 *Poetry Workshop (3)*

A poetry writing workshop designed for the revision and publication of a chosen piece or collection of poetry.

WRIT 652 *Creative Nonfiction Workshop (3)*

A workshop for the revision and publication of creative nonfiction works such as travel and food articles, memoir, and biography.

WRIT 653 *Creative Screenwriting Workshop (3)*

A creative screenwriting workshop designed for the revision of a chosen script.

WRIT 688 *Research Seminar (3)*

WRIT 689 *Thesis Proposal and Research (3)*

This course is designed to help students complete their Thesis. It is expected that research for the thesis project will be relevant to the student's study and will make an academic contribution to their field.

WRIT 690 *Thesis Defense (3)*

This course is the culmination of the student's graduate research and writing in this program, as they defend their thesis project.

Appendix C

Protocol for Oral Defenses of Theses

Protocol for Oral Defenses of Theses

- 1.** Initially, the thesis committee may meet briefly without the student to chat in private about the thesis and zero in on what may happen during the defense.
- 2.** The committee would then call the student in, welcome them, and have prayer.
- 3.** The committee will turn to the student for a brief oral presentation of the thesis, which may concentrate on the “so what” question. What did the writer do, and what do we all learn as a result?
- 4.** The committee then will have a chance to ask the student questions, discuss the work, offer feedback, and talk about possible minor revisions.
- 5.** The committee chair will ask the student to leave the room while the committee deliberates.
- 6.** Finally, the chair will call the student back into the room and present them with the committee response(s).

Appendix D
Thesis Cover Page

Title of Thesis:
Subtitle if applicable

A Thesis Submitted to
The Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences
In Candidacy for the Degree of
Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

By
Your Name
Date and Year

