Emphasis
Dixie State College of Utah
Creative Writing in English
17 February 2012

Section I: Request

The department of English at Dixie State College of Utah (DSC) seeks authorization to add a new emphasis in Creative Writing to its BA and BS in English degrees effective the first full semester after approval. The emphasis will be comprised of 21 credits in addition to established English Department program requirements that include a core curriculum. For the Creative Writing emphasis, the department will organize and coordinate courses it now offers through its existing Literary Studies and Professional & Technical writing emphases and build three (3) new courses. The Creative Writing emphasis will enable students to develop and hone skills in three primary areas of creative literary production—poetry, fiction and nonfiction—and prepare them for their English senior capstone project.

Section II: Need

Currently, English majors at DSC can pursue emphases in Literary Studies, Professional & Technical Writing, and English Education. The DSC department of English offers Creative Writing courses that majors and non-majors can take as electives. Since 2007, to meet requests articulated by students, the department has been increasing the number of lower-division introductory sections of Creative Writing it offers; in addition, it has begun to develop and offer several upper-division courses that provide students with opportunities to study specialized literary forms and techniques. All of these courses have consistently met their enrollment caps prior to the start of each semester.

To meet student demand for more Creative Writing opportunities, the DSC department of English is proposing the creation of a Creative Writing emphasis. The proposed emphasis, which will make use of several courses already offered through the department, will not only provide students with the occasion to develop effective techniques for creative literary production but also give them numerous opportunities to gain demonstrable experience in areas like editing and publication design. The pairing of creative work and professional preparation will boost these students’ chances for admission into graduate schools, as well as securing employment in areas like publishing, journalism, digital and multimedia content production, and related fields.

The adoption of a Creative Writing emphasis can be expected to benefit the DSC department of English and the campus community at large, too. As the 2011 edition of the Association of Writers & Writing Program’s Director’s Handbook reports: “The vast majority of the 2,400 departments of English in North America offer classes in creative writing….Among undergraduate students, classes in creative writing are among the most popular elective classes." The establishment of a Creative Writing emphasis at DSC will also enable the DSC department of English to more effectively support the College’s mission statement, which declares, in part, that students in our institution “will develop the skills and knowledge needed for the next phases in their lives, whether productive employment that contributes to society and economically sustains the student, further education at a transfer or graduate institution, or some other unique and personal aspiration.”
Utah System of Higher Education institutions that currently offer students the opportunity to concentrate in Creative Writing as undergraduates include Weber State University, Southern Utah University, Utah State University, the University of Utah, and Utah Valley University.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The addition of a Creative Writing emphasis will not place pressure on the DSC department of English’s operating budget or use new resources, physical facilities or equipment. The new emphasis will not require oversight or management by a director, either. Rather, the Creative Writing emphasis can be managed, like the Literary Studies, English Education and Professional & Technical Writing emphases, through the department of English’s existing administrative structure. Enrollment in other departments will not be affected.

The curricular program developed for the Creative Writing emphasis will be comprised of eleven (11) courses. All but three (3) of these courses have already been developed and are currently being taught in the Literary Studies and Professional & Technical Writing emphases. The creation of three (3) new courses for the Creative Writing emphasis and their introduction into the curriculum will not strain faculty resources. In the 2010-2011 budget cycle, DSC’s department of English received funding for a new tenure track faculty line in Creative Writing. A candidate was hired and the department now has two Creative Writing specialists, both with Ph.D.s, in its ranks, along with a pair of faculty instructors who are also Creative Writing specialists.

Section IV: Finances

As all but three (3) of the courses that will comprise the Creative Writing emphasis are already in place and several faculty members in DSC’s department of English possess the qualifications, as well as interest, necessary for teaching courses in this area effectively, the new emphasis will not generate new costs or produce unexpected and unwanted fiscal outcomes for the department or the College.

Appendix A: Program Curriculum

Bachelor of Arts/Science in English-Creative Writing Emphasis 120 credits

The bachelor’s degree in English has the following basic components:

- Lower-division, General Education Requirements (25-29 credits).
- Core English Requirements (24 credits).
- Emphasis Requirements (21 credits). Bachelor of Arts only: A foreign language other than ASL, which may be fulfilled by college courses, vertical credit, or examination (16 credits).
- Elective credits (variable)

General Education Requirements 25 – 29 credits
Foreign Language Requirement (Bachelor of Arts only) 16 credits
Complete the following:
- Credits in a single foreign language (excluding ASL)
  through college courses, vertical credit, or examination

Core English Requirements 24 credits
Complete the following:
- ENGL 1410 Elements of Grammar (3.0)
- ENGL 2400 American Literature I or ENGL 2410 American Literature II (3.0)
- ENGL 2500 British Literature I or ENGL 2510 British Literature II (3.0)
- ENGL 2600 Critical Introduction to Literature (3.0)
- ENGL 3030 Advanced Writing (3.0)
- ENGL 3030 Multi-Ethnic American Literature (3.0)
- ENGL 3810 History and Structure of the English Language (3.0)
- ENGL 4700 Senior Capstone (3.0)

Emphasis Area Requirements 21 credits
Complete the following:
- ENGL 2140 Creative Writing (3.0)
- ENGL 3140 Fiction Writing (3.0)
- ENGL 3141 Poetry Writing (3.0)
- ENGL 3142 Creative Nonfiction Writing (3.0)

Complete three (3) of the following
- ENGL 3180 Writing for Interactive Media (3.0)
- ENGL 3340 Exploring Scientific Writing (3.0)
- ENGL 3360 Writing for Magazines and Trade Journals (3.0)
- ENGL 3370 Advanced Fiction Technique (3.0)*
- ENGL 3380 Advanced Poetic Form and Technique (3.0)*
- ENGL 3720 Editing (3.0)
- ENGL 3890 Digital Journal Production (3.0)*
- THEA 3420 Playwriting (3.0)
- COMM 3620 Advance Screen Writing (3.0)

*New Course

Graduation Requirements
- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (1000 and above).
- Complete at least 40 upper-division credits (3000 and above).
- Complete at least 30 upper-division credits at DSC for institutional residency.
- Cumulative GPA 2.0 or higher.
- Institutional GPA 2.0 or higher.
- Grade C- or higher in each Core English course.
Institution Submitting Proposal: Dixie State College of Utah
Institutional Contact Person: Dr. Donald Hinton
School in Which the Program Will Be Located: Arts and Letters/Humanities Division
Department(s) in Which Program Will Be Located: English
Program/Administrative Unit Title: Creative Writing Emphasis
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 23.0501
Certificate, and/or Degree(s) to Be Awarded: Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts
Proposed Beginning Date: Fall 2012

Institutional Signatures:

Randy Jasmine, Chair
Department of English

Donald Hinton, Dean
School of Arts & Letters

Donna Dillingham-Evans
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Stephen D. Nadauld, President
Dixie State College of Utah

Date: 2/17/2012