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# Writing (major and minor)

**Department of English and Writing:** James F. Wardwell, chair and Associate Dean

**Faculty:** Laurie A. Dashnau, Lori L. Huth, Susan Bruxvoort Lipscomb, Linda Mills Woolsey, Stephen A. Woolsey, James A. Zoller

**Web site:** [www.houghton.edu/academics/programs/english-writing](http://www.houghton.edu/academics/programs/english-writing)

**Phone:** 585.567.9670

**Major:** (36 hours in the major)

## General Information

The writing major provides students with a strong liberal arts preparation for a variety of careers including journalism, publishing, law, advertising, public relations, teaching and business. The major is designed to help students develop their skills in recording and communicating information as well as their ability to use writing as a tool for thinking, articulating ideas, and solving problems.

Required courses:

Three Literature courses numbered 216 and above.

Six Writing courses including:

WRIT 214 Literary Non-Fiction

WRIT 401 Workshop

**Minor:** (16 hours) 4 writing courses including WRIT 214 Literary Non-Fiction.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**WRIT 101 Writing in the Liberal Arts** (4, F&S)

Theme based seminar course in close reading, critical thinking, and the process of engaged writing. Techniques of expression, analysis and response. Competency – Writing.

**WRIT 214 Literary Non-Fiction** (4, F&S)

Writing across the range of forms available to the creative non-fiction writer, such as expository and persuasive writing and literary journalism. Emphasis will center on craft, personal presence, and writing for varied audiences.

**WRIT 215 Life Narratives** (4, S12)

Techniques of personal essay, memoir, biographical essay, and related forms. Discussion of craft: nature of memory, ethics of selection, and role of the self in relation to others.

**WRIT 301 Fiction** (4, F)

Techniques of the traditional short story.

**WRIT 302 Poetry** (4, S)

Techniques of open and closed verse.

**WRIT 304 Screenwriting** (4, S13)

Techniques in writing screenplays. Emphasis on dramatic structure, cinematic rendering, story concept, and characterization.

**WRIT 307 Writing about Spiritual Experience** (4, F12)

Disciplines of the spiritual journal, writing and evangelism, the meditative essay, and devotional writing.

**WRIT 310 The Extended Narrative** (4, S13)

A multi-genre course exploring the differences and similarities of the nonfiction and fictive narrative. Prerequisite: WRIT 215 or WRIT 301.

**WRIT 311 Poetry, Liturgy, and Worship** (4, F11)

Techniques of poetry dedicated to worship in its several forms.

**WRIT 312 Creative Writing in Public Life** (4, S12)

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Study and practice in the various forms of writing dedicated to social awareness and action. Prerequisite: WRIT 214 or WRIT 215.

**WRIT 320 Special Topics in Writing** (1, 2, 3, or 4, OD)  
Opportunity for study of issues and problems of writing not covered elsewhere in the curriculum such as travel writing, writing for the younger audience, writing and the natural world, humor writing.

**WRIT 401 Workshop** (4, S)  
Life experience, project and task-centered integrative capstone.

**WRIT 403 Internship** (4, OD)  
Opportunities for practical off-campus experience. Workshop alternative with permission of Department Chair.

**WRIT 404 Praxis** (4, OD)  
Writing Center theory and practice.

**WRIT 291, -2; 391, -2; 491, -2 Independent Study** (1, 2, 3, or 4)

**WRIT 496 Honors in Writing** (4)

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## Youth Ministry (see Christian Formation, Youth Concentration)

