



MARTHA BRADLEY EVANS
Center for Teaching Excellence

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Leap 1270 – Explorations in Creative Writing

Spring 2025

Tu/Th, 9:10am – 10:30am, GC 4700

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Rivkin

Email: Joshua.rivkin@utah.edu

Office Hours: Tu 2pm-3pm and by appointment

Office Location: Sill Center 009B

Course Description

In this course, students will write across multiple genres, from fiction to poetry, as they understand and practice the craft of creative writing. This is a course for everyone, from those who might have never written before, to those who have a dedicated practice, and everyone in between. An essential part of the class will be learning to “read as a writer,” analyzing the use of various craft elements by published writers, your classmates, and yourself. We will read stories, essays, and poems, and then use those works as inspiration for ourselves. This class is structured around the workshop process and community. In coming together to support and challenge each other, we will keep in mind what E.B. White had to say: “I admire anybody who has the guts to write anything at all.”

Note: LEAP: 1270- 001 fulfills the university’s Fine Arts Exploration (FF) requirement.

Course Outcomes and Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- to understand, interpret, and practice elements of craft in a short fiction and nonfiction including setting, scene, structure, time, character, plot, persona, etc.
- write short literary fiction and nonfiction, with a focus on place/space as well as scene development
- write poetry and understand poetic forms such as sonnet, villanelle, sestina, etc.
- discuss published works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, specifically focusing on reading as writers
- collaborate in a community, receiving and offering constructive feedback to their peers

Course Requirements

This course will use a mix of specifications and contract grading. Below is the *approximate* breakdown of the course components.

Writing Exercises – 40%

Final Portfolio – 25%

Attendance and Engagement – 25%

Workshop Comments – 10%

Grading Scale

This course will use a mix of specifications and contract grading.

University Policies

Updated mandatory syllabus policies regarding the ADA Act, Safety at the U, Addressing Sexual Misconduct, and Academic Misconduct can be viewed at: <https://cte.utah.edu/instructor-education/syllabus/institutional-policies.php>

Preliminary Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Discussion</u>	<u>Due Dates:</u>
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See Canvas for Due Dates of Shorter and Longer Writing Assignments

Week 1:	Course Introduction and Syllabus/Schedule Review
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Week 2:	Fiction
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Week 3:	Fiction
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Week 4:	Fiction
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Week 5:	Fiction
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Week 6:	Fiction
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Week 7:	Poetry
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Week 8:	Poetry
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Week 9:	Poetry
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Week 10:	Poetry
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Week 11:	Poetry
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Week 12:	Workshops
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Week 13:	Workshops
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Week 14:	Workshops
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Week 15: Workshops

Week 16: Final Portfolio