

Creative Writing

**Creativity and practicality
combine in our program
for success.**

It's one thing to want to be a writer.
But it takes a community to bring writing
into the world.

Creative Writing in the Department of
English at Ryerson University participates
in the larger literary culture that shapes
Toronto and North America.

Through courses in creative writing,
encounter the arts of storytelling and
poetry while discovering the practical
skills it takes to edit, design, produce,
and market a literary journal.

Discover the joy of writing.

Take courses with our creative writing faculty that will enhance your writing skills. We offer a range of expertise, with focus on contemporary fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, and print and digital cultures.

Our courses will help you develop essential critical and communication skills. You will learn new approaches to writing in print and digital formats through courses like:

- ENG 302:** Writing in the Arts
- ENG 304:** Making Digital Work
- ENG 306:** Writing Poetry
- ENG 307:** Writing Fiction
- ENG 517:** Topics in Creative Writing



Gain practical experience editing a literary journal.

Take our Open Topics course in literary publishing to learn what it takes to foster literary community in Toronto and beyond.

Join our literary journal, *White Wall Review*, and connect to a larger literary public. Write articles, interview authors, edit poetry, short stories and book reviews, and contribute to the design and publication of this nationally-distributed journal.

Undergraduate and graduate students work together to learn valuable editing skills, engage in the local literary community, collaborate to organize live literary events, and explore opportunities in the culture industries job market.



Address global contexts.

See how writing shapes and is shaped by the world. Deepen your writing skills by studying great writers through courses in transnational literature. Our faculty specializes in modern and contemporary literature from North America, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean.

Understanding global contexts gives you the knowledge to share your voice on issues that matter. From immigration and economic concerns, to religious and moral conflicts, learn how your voice matters in larger public conversations.

Some courses you will take include:

- American Literatures
- Auto/Biography
- Canadian Literatures
- Children's Literature
- Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures
- Fairy Tales and Fantasies
- Film/Literature:
Middle East, North Africa
- Language of Persuasion
- Literature Across Borders
- Literatures of Exile and Migration



Encounter community through ideas.

Attend special presentations and lectures by renowned national and international authors. Speakers in our department have ranged from poets and novelists to critics of contemporary literatures:

Fred Wah, Shyam Selvadurai, Marjorie Perloff, Emma Donoghue, Cherie Dimaline, Leanne Simpson, Drew Hayden Taylor, and more.

Learn from acclaimed authors.

Sarah Henstra is the author of the 2018 Governor General's Award-winning novel *The Red Word*. She also writes fiction for young adults: *Mad Miss Mimic* (2015) and *We Contain Multitudes* (2019).

Lauren Kirshner's novel *Where We Have to Go* was a finalist for the City of Toronto Book Award. Her non-fiction has appeared in publications including *The Globe and Mail*, *Hazlitt*, and *ELLE CANADA*. She is Founding Director of the acclaimed writing program for women, *Sister Writes*.

Hoang Nguyen is the author of five books of poetry including *As Long As Trees Last*, *Red Juice*, and *Violet Energy Ingots*, nominated for a 2017 Griffin Prize for poetry. She is also the editor of the 2018 *Best Canadian Poetry in English*.

Dale Smith's most recent poetry includes *Sons* (KFB 2017) and *Slow Poetry in America* (Cuneiform 2014). His writing appears regularly in anthologies, journals, and magazines like *Best American Poetry*, *Boston Review*, *Brick*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *Chicago Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Jacket 2*, and *Poetry Magazine*.

Aaron Tucker is the author of the novel *Y: Oppenheimer, Horseman of Los Alamos* (Coach House Books, 2018) and the poetry collections *Irresponsible Mediums: The Chess Games of Marcel Duchamp* (Book*hug Press, 2017) and *punchlines* (Mansfield Press, 2015).

Kari Maaren is a writer, cartoonist, musician, and academic whose first novel, the YA fantasy *Weave a Circle Round*, was published by Tor Books in 2017. It tied for the 2018 Copper Cylinder Award (YA category). It was also a finalist for the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy and was shortlisted for the Sunburst Award (YA category). Kari has a completed webcomic, *West of Bathurst*, and an active one, *It Never Rains*, the latter of which won a 2015 Aurora Award (Graphic Novel category).





Careers and Employability

Creative Writing, when combined with other elements of our program in English, prepares you for flexible and rewarding careers. Learn to communicate effectively and develop skills in research, project management, marketing, and editing.

Our graduates enter careers in **journalism**, the **tech sector**, **non-profit administration**, **publishing**, and **teaching**. Others go on to attend graduate programs in writing, literature, and law.

“Ryerson’s creative writing courses and communities not only help craft your particular voice as a writer, but introduce you to the GTA’s editing, publishing, and outreach industries that support creative writing.”

— Cameron Macdonald, former English BA

Explore

the world of writing
at Ryerson.

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