TO: University of Toronto Scarborough Academic Committee
SPONSOR: John Scherk, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate
DATE: January 22, 2013
AGENDA ITEM: For approval

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:
Curriculum change proposals from the Department of English:
1. Major Modification Type B: new freestanding Minor in Creative Writing
   • Associated New Courses
2. Minor Program Modifications:
   • Specialist in English
   • Major in English
3. Other New Courses (REVISED)
4. Significant Course Changes
5. Consent Agenda Course Changes

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
University of Toronto Scarborough Academic Committee has authority to oversee and approve all curricular and academic matters on which the Committee’s decision is required, including programs, courses, and academic regulations and policies.

SUMMARY:
1. In direct response to student demand, the Department proposes a new freestanding Minor program in Creative Writing. Student interest in creative writing courses has been consistently high, and over the past five years the Department has been expanding these offerings.

The proposed Minor has been developed in response to three key needs not fully addressed by existing creative writing programs: the need for a foundation in tradition, the need for an understanding of a range of forms and genres, and the need to engage the transformation of literature by a host of contemporary technologies and creative communities.

The proposed Minor addresses the needs of students who want to be writers by providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue a career as a writer, whether they seek to so within the literary community, in a related creative field, or in concert with another profession.

Five new courses are associated with this proposed Minor.
2. The Department is adding two new B-level survey courses in literary history as requirements to its Specialist and Major programs, so as to ground students in the historical trajectory of literary movements before they begin to narrow their focus at the C- and D-levels.

3. The Department is introducing two new C-level courses to expand its offerings in Classical and American literature.

4. The Department proposes to change two existing creative writing courses from 0.5 credit courses (H) to 1.0 credit courses (Y).

5. The Department is adding a Recommended Preparation to a number of its courses, and revising prerequisites in several others to keep them current.

1. MAJOR PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS:

Minor in Creative Writing:

Overview:
Over the course of five years the Department of English has been monitoring a sustained and ever-increasing student demand for courses and programs in creative writing. Two new C-level creative writing courses were introduced to allow students to progress through three distinct levels of course offerings: introductions to writing poetry and fiction at the B-level, advanced poetry and fiction at the C-level, and independent projects at the D-level.

The next phase of development is to expand the creative writing offerings at these three distinct levels, increasing the breadth and depth of the students’ practical, theoretical, and professional knowledge and skills and allowing students to get credit for their specialized work via a Minor program. We have studied the Creative Writing programs offered at other Canadian universities as a means to balance distinctiveness with best practices in the field. We will add six more foundational courses to the creative writing curriculum: Creative Nonfiction, Writing for Comics, Screenwriting, Poetry and New Media, and innovative “Special Topics in CW” courses at the C- and D-Level. These courses will provide students with a sophisticated set of writing skills, a deep practical, theoretical, and historical grounding in a host of forms, and an extensive knowledge of both the creative writing profession and other related professional fields, from publishing to editing to communications. The development of these new courses will be supported by the hiring of a second teaching-stream creative writing lecturer (search commencing in Fall of 2012).

The proposed Minor program in Creative Writing is distinctive within the University of Toronto; indeed, it will be the only undergraduate program of its kind on all three campuses. It is also distinctive among the majority of other institutions in the southern Ontario region. The proposed Minor is an excellent fit with existing Minor programs in English at UTSC, which include the Minor in English Literature and the Minor in Literature and Film Studies. It will add to the distinctiveness of these and other English programs at UTSC, provide students with credentials in a field that readily translates into a variety of institutional and employment settings, and further diversify the overall emphasis of the department on using creative writing and literary study to engage, and shape our relations, with the larger world.

Rationale:
With the development of six additional creative writing courses, Creative Nonfiction, Screenwriting, Writing for Comics, Poetry and New Media, and two Special Topics in Creative Writing courses,
we are ready to implement a new Minor program that will allow students from across the university to receive credit and credentials in a field that readily translates into a variety of institutional and employment settings. The program adds both to the distinctiveness of the Department of English and UTSC, and fits with our philosophy of using literature creatively to engage, and shape our relations, with the larger world.

The proposed Minor program addresses the needs of students who want to be writers. At UTSC, this need has been expressed by English specialists, majors, and minors, and by students from a diverse range of fields of study (from theatre to sociology to neuroscience to psychology). Our proposed Minor program in Creative Writing will provide these students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue a career as a writer, whether they seek to do so within the literary community, in a related creative field (e.g. editing, publishing, communications, or advertising), or in concert with another profession. Creative Writing programs are increasingly the most popular routes of development for writers, and this proposed Minor program gives the many talented writers at UTSC these crucial developmental opportunities and the resulting credentials.

More specifically, in terms of the field of creative writing studies, our proposed Minor in Creative Writing has been developed in response to the three key needs not addressed by existing programs: the need for a foundation in tradition, the need for an understanding of a range of forms and genres, and the need to engage the transformation of literature by a host of contemporary technologies and creative communities.

Distinctiveness:
In terms of associated and surrounding institutions, the proposed Minor in Creative Writing, as a whole, is distinctive. The St. George campus offers an MA in English in the Field of Creative Writing, but at both the St. George and Mississauga campuses the offerings for writers at the undergraduate level remain seriously underdeveloped (especially in contrast to institutions throughout the United States, and on the east and west coasts of Canada). Regionally, there are a handful of equivalent programs. Concordia University has the top undergraduate creative writing programs in our region, with degree opportunities ranging from an Honours BA to a Minor. They offer their students both a strong foundation in the traditional areas of poetry, prose, and drama, and the opportunity to branch out into unique areas, such as Script Writing for Radio, Screen, and Television, and Writing for Children’s Literature. They also offer students the opportunity to further professionalize with a Publishing and Editing course. York University has another excellent advanced program, which offers degree opportunities that range from an Honours BA to a Minor. Like Concordia, they possess a world-class faculty, though York’s course offerings have a greater emphasis on tradition, remaining focused on—at the intermediate and advanced levels—poetry, prose, and mixed genre. Finally, the University of Windsor offers a combined degree in English and Creative Writing, but no Creative Writing Minor. Beyond these examples, the majority of institutions offer only a limited selection of courses and no creative writing credentials.

In comparison to other creative writing major or minor programs, our proposed Minor program provides three distinctive courses. First are the Special Topics in Creative Writing (ENGC08H3 – Special Topics I and ENGD22H3 – Special Topics II) courses, which are multi-genre courses, designed around a specific theme or topic, that encourage interdisciplinary practice, experiential adventuring, rigorous theoretical reflection, and experimental processes. In leading students to join contemporary explorations into the new horizons of writing, this course distinguishes itself from the offerings at other institutions. Second is the Poetry and New Media course (ENGC05H3), which
adopts the same innovative practices and goals as the Special Topics class, but focuses through the lens of the traditions and conventions of poetry. Third is the Writing for Comics (ENGC06H3) course. The comic, in the form of graphic novels, web comics, and comic books, continues to grow in popularity with readers and writers, yet creative writing programs have not responded to this interest and demand on the part of readers or this need on the part of burgeoning student writers. Our program also places significant emphasis on experiential learning, through workshops, readings, and visits from guest writers.

Our proposed Minor promises provide students with excellent training and, combined with an appropriate Specialist or Major program, will prepare them for admission to leading graduate programs like the University of Toronto’s MA in Creative Writing.

Our proposed Minor program in Creative Writing is designed according to the norms established by successful creative writing programs, in terms of the types of courses we offer, the order in which the courses are taken, and their workshop-based format. To take one of the country’s top programs as an example, Concordia’s BA in Creative Writing introduces students to creative writing with entry-level poetry, fiction, and drama courses, and then gives them the option to specialize further in these genres or to branch out into other areas, such as children’s literature or creative non-fiction, working closely with their peers and advisers in a small workshop setting. Our program combines these proven elements with innovative components unique to the UTSC setting, such as opportunities to contribute to Scarborough Fair, the annual Humanities conference, and creative writing competitions.

Admission/Eligibility Requirements:
Admission to individual creative writing courses is always by portfolio. Thus, admission to the Minor in Creative Writing will be based on a twenty-page portfolio of the student’s work and satisfactory completion of any two creative writing courses.

Program Requirements:

Students must complete 4.0 credits as follows:

1. 1.5 credits:
ENGB03H3 Critical Thinking about Narrative
ENGB04H3 Critical Thinking about Poetry
ENGB60H3 Creative Writing: Poetry I OR ENGB61H3 Creative Writing: Fiction I

2. 2.5 credits to be selected from:
ENGB60H3 Creative Writing: Poetry I (if not already counted as a required course)
ENGB61H3 Creative Writing: Fiction I (if not already counted as a required course)
ENGC04H3 Creative Writing Screenwriting (New)
ENGC05H3 Creative Writing: Poetry and New Media (New)
ENGC06H3 Creative Writing: Writing for Comics (New)
ENGC08H3 Special Topics in Creative Writing I (New)
ENGC85H3 Creative Writing: Poetry II
ENGC87H3 Creative Writing: Fiction II
ENGC88H3 Creative Non-Fiction
ENGD22H3 Special Topics in Creative Writing II (New)
ENGD26Y3  Independent Studies in Creative Writing: Poetry
ENGD27Y3  Independent Studies in Creative Writing: Fiction (Note: ENGD27 is currently an H course; the Department has submitted a proposal to change this to a Y course)
ENGD28Y3  Independent Studies in Creative Writing: Special Topics (Note: ENGD28 is currently an H course; the Department has submitted a proposal to change this to a Y course)

Associated New Courses:
These new courses are designed to fortify and expand the core offerings in creative writing. With these courses the Department of English will be able to provide creative writing students with a foundation in tradition and the opportunity to explore a variety of popular and burgeoning mediums, forms, and genres.

ENGC04H3  Creative Writing: Screenwriting
An introduction to the craft of screenwriting undertaken through discussions, readings, and workshop sessions. Admission by portfolio. The portfolio should contain 10-20 pages of a complete screenplay or a screenplay in progress. Please email your portfolio to dtysdal@utsc.utoronto.ca by the first Tuesday of August (for a Fall semester offering) or by the first Monday of October (for a Winter semester offering).
Pre-Requisite: ENGB61H3
Recommended Preparation: Students should have developed a small body of creative works before enrolling in this course.
Enrolment Limits: 20
Breadth Requirement: Arts, Literature & Language

ENGC05H3  Creative Writing: Poetry and New Media
A creative investigation into the intersections between poetry and new media (from wikis to cell phones to social media) undertaken through discussions, readings, and workshop sessions. Admission by portfolio. The portfolio should contain 5-10 pages of your best poetry. Please email your portfolio to dtysdal@utsc.utoronto.ca by the first Tuesday of August (for a Fall semester offering) or by the first Monday of October (for a Winter semester offering).
Pre-Requisite: ENGB60H3
Recommended Preparation: Students should have developed a small body of creative works before enrolling in this course.
Enrolment Limits: 20
Breadth Requirement: Arts, Literature & Language

ENGC06H3  Creative Writing: Writing for Comics
An introduction to the writing of comics undertaken through discussions, readings, and workshop sessions. Admission by portfolio. The portfolio should contain 10-20 pages of a complete script or a script in progress. Please email your portfolio to dtysdal@utsc.utoronto.ca by the first Tuesday of August (for a Fall semester offering) or by the first Monday of October (for a Winter semester offering).
Pre-Requisite: ENGB61H3
Recommended Preparation: Students should have developed a small body of creative works before enrolling in this course.
Enrolment Limits: 20
Breadth Requirement: Arts, Literature & Language
ENGC08H3  Special Topics in Creative Writing I
This multi-genre creative writing course, designed around a specific theme or topic, will encourage interdisciplinary practice, experiential adventuring, and rigorous theoretical reflection through readings, exercises, field trips, projects, etc. Admission by portfolio. The portfolio should contain 10-20 pages of your best writing (any genre). Please email your portfolio to dtydsdal@utsc.utoronto.ca by the first Tuesday of August (for a Fall semester offering) or by the first Monday of October (for a Winter semester offering).
Pre-Requisite: ENGB60H3 or ENGB61H3
Recommended Preparation: Students should have developed a small body of creative works before enrolling in this course.
Enrolment Limits: 20
Breadth Requirement: Arts, Literature & Language

ENGD22H3  Special Topics in Creative Writing II
This multi-genre creative writing course, designed around a specific theme or topic, will encourage interdisciplinary practice, experiential adventuring, and rigorous theoretical reflection through readings, exercises, field trips, projects, etc. Admission by portfolio. The portfolio should contain 10-20 pages of your best writing (any genre). Please email your portfolio to dtydsdal@utsc.utoronto.ca by the first Tuesday of August (for a Fall semester offering) or by the first Monday of October (for a Winter semester offering).
Pre-Requisite: ENGC08H3
Recommended Preparation: Students should have developed a small body of creative works before enrolling in this course.
Enrolment Limits: 20
Breadth Requirement: Arts, Literature & Language

2.  MINOR PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS:

Specialist in English

Overview of Changes:
•  Add ENGB27H3 and ENGB28H3 as requirements.
•  Reduce requirement #6 from 3.0 fce to 2.0 fce to keep overall fces for program at 12.0.

Proposed Program Requirements:
SPECIALIST PROGRAM IN ENGLISH (ARTS)
Program Requirements 12.0 credits in English are required of which at least 3.0 must be at the C-level and 1.5 at the D-level. They should be selected as follows:

1.  ENGB03H3 Critical Thinking About Narrative
2.  ENGB04H3 Critical Thinking About Poetry
3.  ENGB05H3 Critical Writing about Literature
4.  ENGB27H3 Charting Literary History I
5.  ENGB28H3 Charting Literary History II
6. 3.0 credits from courses whose content is pre-1900
7. 0.5 credits in Canadian literature
8. 7.0 additional credits in English

Note: Students may count no more than one of the following courses towards the Specialist requirements: ENGB35H3 Children's Literature (ENGB36H3) Detective Fiction (ENGB41H3) Science Fiction. Students may count no more than one full credit of D-level independent study [ENGD26Y3, ENGD27H3, ENGD28H3, (ENGD97H3), ENGD98Y3, (ENGD99H)] towards an English program. The following courses do not count towards any English programs: ENG100H, ENG185Y.

Major in English

Overview of Changes:
- Add ENGB27H3 and ENGB28H3 as requirements.
- Reduce requirement #6 from 2.0 fce to 1.0 fce to keep overall fces for program at 12.0.

Proposed Program Requirements:
MAJOR PROGRAM IN ENGLISH (ARTS)
Program Requirements 7.5 credits in English are required of which at least 2.0 must be at the C- or D-level. They should be selected as follows:

1. ENGB03H3 Critical Thinking About Narrative
2. ENGB04H3 Critical Thinking About Poetry
3. ENGB05H3 Critical Writing about Literature
4. ENGB27H3 Charting Literary History I
5. ENGB28H3 Charting Literary History II
6. 2.0 credits from courses whose content is pre-1900
7. 4.0 additional credits in English.

Note: Students may count no more than one of the following courses towards the Major requirements: ENGB35H3 Children's Literature (ENGB36H3) Detective Fiction (ENGB41H3) Science Fiction. Students may count no more than one full credit of D-level independent study [ENGD26Y3, ENGD27H3, ENGD28H3, (ENGD97H3), ENGD98Y3, (ENGD99H)] towards an English program. The following courses do not count towards any English programs: ENG100H, ENG185Y

Associated New Courses:

ENGB27H3 Charting Literary History I
An introduction to the historical and cultural developments that have shaped the study of literature in English before 1700. Focusing on the medieval, early modern, and Restoration periods, this course will examine the notions of literary history and the literary “canon” and explore how contemporary critical approaches impact our readings of literature in English in specific historical and cultural settings.
Pre-1900 course
Exclusion: ENG202Y
Enrolment Limits: 175
Breadth Requirement: Arts, Literature & Language
ENGB28H3  Charting Literary History II
An introduction to the historical and cultural developments that have impacted the study of literature in English from 1700 to our contemporary moment. This course will familiarize students with the eighteenth century, Romanticism, the Victorian period, Modernism, and Postmodernism, and will attend to the significance of postcolonial and world literatures in shaping the notions of literary history and the literary “canon.”
Pre-1900 course
Recommended Preparation: ENGB27H3
Enrolment Limits: 175
Breadth Requirement: Arts, Literature & Language

3.  OTHER NEW COURSES: (REVISED)

ENGC90H3  Topics in Classical Myth and Literature
This course pursues the in-depth study of a small set of myths. We will explore how a myth or mythological figure is rendered in a range of literary texts ancient and modern, and examine each text as both an individual work of art and a strand that makes up the fabric of each given myth.
Pre-1900 course
Prerequisite: ENGB03H3 & ENGB04H3 & [one of ENGB05H3 or (ENGB01H3) or (ENGB02H3)] & ENGB30H3
Exclusion: CLAC01H3, (ENGC58H3), (ENGC60H3), (ENGC61H3)
Enrolment Limits: 50
Breadth Requirement: Arts, Literature & Language

ENGC91H3  American Realisms
An exploration of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American "realism" and naturalism in literary and visual culture. This course will explore the work of writers such as Henry James, William Dean Howells, Edith Wharton, Charles Chesnutt, Stephen Crane, Frank Norris, Kate Chopin, and Theodore Dreiser alongside early motion pictures, photographs, and other images from the period.
Prerequisites: ENGB03H3 & ENGB04H3 & [one of ENGB05H3 or (ENGB01H3) or (ENGB02H3)]
Enrolment Limits: 50
Breadth Requirement: Arts, Literature & Language

4.  SIGNIFICANT COURSE CHANGES

ENGD27H3 Independent Studies: Creative Writing
- From H to Y
- Revise Prerequisites

Rationale:
A one semester course is not enough time to effectively undertake a Creative Writing Independent Study. The high quality and high quantity of writing, revision, reading, research, and discussion that characterizes a successful Creative Writing Independent Study requires two terms to be successfully achieved. The extra term will allow student writers to finish the Creative Writing Independent Study with either a completed draft of a publishable manuscript or a very strong foundation for one.

**ENGD28H3 Independent Studies: Creative Writing**
- From H to Y
- Revise Prerequisites

**Rationale:**
A one semester course is not enough time to effectively undertake a Creative Writing Independent Study. The high quality and high quantity of writing, revision, reading, research, and discussion that characterizes a successful Creative Writing Independent Study requires two terms to be successfully achieved. The extra term will allow student writers to finish the Creative Writing Independent Study with either a completed draft of a publishable manuscript or a very strong foundation for one.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA COURSE CHANGES:**

- **ENGB60H3** Creative Writing: Poetry I
  - Add Recommended Preparation
- **ENGB61H3** Creative Writing: Fiction I
  - Add Recommended Preparation
- **ENGC33H3** Deceit, Dissent, and the English Civil Wars, 1603-1660
  - Add Recommended Preparation
- **ENGC34H3** Early Modern Women and Literature, 1500-1700
  - Add Recommended Preparation
- **ENGC86H3** Creative Writing: Poetry II
  - Add Recommended Preparation
- **ENGC87H3** Creative Writing: Fiction II
  - Add Recommended Preparation
- **ENGC88H3** Creative Non-Fiction
  - Revise Prerequisite
- **ENGD26Y3** Independent Studies: Creative Writing
  - Revise Prerequisite