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Advanced Literature and Composition

This course was created by Rebecca Epperly Wire. You can contact her through the [Facebook community group](#) with questions.

Please review the FAQs and [contact us](#) if you find a problem.

Credits: 1

Recommended: 12th

Prerequisite: Literature and Composition, as well as at least one of American Literature or British Literature

Course Description: Advanced Literature and Composition will be a guide for you rather than a daily outlined course. This course is for students interested in writing for publication. For this course, you will choose a writing category or genre you would like to pursue. For the first half of the course, you will read examples from your genre (“the best of. . .”) and the latter half of the course will be an extensive writing workshop for that genre.

NOTE: The various examples and resources offered have not all been checked for content issues. Parents and students will have to make their own choices on what content is appropriate for them.

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Semester 1

Pick an area of writing that you are most interested in pursuing. Begin to compile your reading list from the provided links. Try to choose from a variety of authors and styles. You should be sure to include some from the last twenty years even though many will not be available for free online. You will be spending the first half of this school year reading as many examples of what is considered the best in your area. Why? Because to be a great writer you have to read great writing. The second half of the year you will be writing with the intent to publish. You should read 40-60 minutes a day.

Poetry

1. [National Book Award Winners for Poetry](#)
2. [James Laughlin Award Winners](#)
3. [The Pulitzer Prize for Poetry Winners](#)
4. [Academy of American Poets Fellowship Winners](#)
5. [Popular Poems to Teach](#) (This is a great list of some well-known authors and their “signature” works.)

6. [William Wordsworth](#)
7. [Walt Whitman](#)
8. [Langston Hughes](#)
9. [Robert Frost](#)
10. [Shel Silverstein](#)
11. [Elizabeth Barrett Browning](#)
12. [Maya Angelou](#)
13. [Emily Dickinson](#)
14. [William Shakespeare](#)
15. [W.B. Yeats](#)

Children's Literature

1. [NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children](#) (Look through the list of past winners)
2. [National Book Award Winners for Children's Literature](#)
3. [Newberry Medal & Honor Books](#)
4. [Children's Notable Books \(Awarded by the American Library Association\)](#)
5. [100 Great Children's Books \(Compiled by the New York Public Library\)](#)
6. Look over Reading Lists from elementary and middle grades within [Easy Peasy All-in-One Homeschool](#).
7. [Brown Girl Dreaming \(Kindle Version\)](#) by Jacqueline Woodson (won the 2014 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the 2015 Coretta Scott King Book Award and was named a 2015 Newbery Honor Book)
8. [Little Women](#) by Louisa May Alcott
9. [The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood](#) by Howard Pyle
10. [Hans Christian Andersen Fairy Tales](#)
11. [Peter Pan](#) by J.M. Barrie
12. [The Wind in the Willows](#) by Kenneth Grahame
13. [The Velveteen Rabbit](#) by Margery Williams
14. [Island of the Blue Dolphins \(Kindle Version\)](#) by Scott O'Dell (Newbery Medal (1961), Lewis Carroll Shelf Award (1961))
15. [Treasure Island](#) by Robert Louis Stevenson

Drama – Playwriting & Screenwriting

1. [Best Picture Oscar Nominees and Winners Database](#)
 - [Academy Award Winning Screenplays](#)
1. [Tony Awards](#) (Past Winners for Best Play)
2. [Goodreads Top 100 Stage Plays of All Time](#)
3. [The 50 Best Plays of The Past 100 Years](#)
4. [101 Greatest Screenplays](#)
 - [30 Days of Screenplays: Casablanca](#) (Find the line: You may download a PDF of the script)
 - [It's A Wonderful Life](#)
1. [Hamlet](#), [Romeo & Juliet](#), [Othello](#), etc. by William Shakespeare

2. [Antigone](#) by Sophocles
3. [The Importance of Being Earnest](#) by Oscar Wilde
4. [Pygmalion](#) by George Bernard Shaw
5. Death of A Salesman by Arthur Miller – [Kindle Version](#)
6. Our Town by Thornton Wilder – [Kindle Version](#)
7. A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry – [Kindle Version](#)
8. [Gone With The Wind](#)
9. [Groundhog Day](#)
10. [Schindler's List](#)

Fiction (Short Story & Novel)

1. Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes ([Kindle Version](#))
2. Ray Bradbury Collection ([Kindle Version](#))
3. [Young Goodman Brown](#), by Nathaniel Hawthorne
4. [The Metamorphosis](#) by Franz Kafka
5. [Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) by Mark Twain
6. [The Count of Monte Cristo](#) by Alexandre Dumas
7. [Les Misérables](#) by Victor Hugo
8. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck ([Kindle Version](#))
9. The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck ([Kindle Version](#))
10. [Great Expectations](#) by Charles Dickens
11. [Crime and Punishment](#) by Fyodor Dostoevsky
12. The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck ([Kindle Version](#))
13. Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe ([Kindle Version](#))
14. The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald ([Kindle Version](#))
15. As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner ([Kindle Version](#))

Genre Specific Fiction (Mystery/Suspense, Romance, Western, Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Science Fiction, etc.)

Note: There are many sub-genres and stories will overlap across genres sometimes. These lists are just to give you an idea of possibilities.

Mystery/Suspense

1. [The Edgar Award Winners for Best Mystery Novels](#)
2. [The Necklace](#) by Guy de Maupassant
3. And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie ([Kindle version](#))
4. [The Murders in the Rue Morgue](#) by Edgar Allen Poe
5. Hardy Boys (any in the series) – [Kindle versions](#)
6. Nancy Drew Mysteries – ([Kindle versions](#))
7. Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier ([Kindle version](#))
8. [The Woman in White](#) by Wilkie Collins
9. [The Leavenworth Case](#) by Anna Katharine Green
10. [Mistress of Mellyn \(Kindle Version\)](#) by Victoria Holt

11. [The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes](#) by Conan Arthur Doyle
12. [The Hound of the Baskervilles](#) by Conan Arthur Doyle
13. [Prisoner of Night and Fog](#) by Anne Blankman
14. [The Fall of the House of Usher](#) by Edgar Allen Poe
15. [The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde](#) by Robert Louis Stevenson

Romance

1. [Romance Writers of America RITA Award Winners](#)
2. [Jane Eyre](#) by Charlotte Brontë
3. [Pride and Prejudice](#) by Jane Austen
4. [Wuthering Heights](#) by Emily Brontë
5. [The Princess Bride](#) by William Goldman
6. [Sense & Sensibility](#) by Jane Austen
7. [Vanity Fair](#) by William Makepeace Thackeray
8. [The Age of Innocence](#) by Edith Wharton
9. [Anna Karenina](#) by Leo Tolstoy
10. [Middlemarch](#) by George Eliot
11. [Far From the Madding Crowd](#) by Thomas Hardy
12. [North and South](#) by Elizabeth Gaskell
13. [Agnes Grey](#) by Anne Brontë
14. [Tess of the D'Urbervilles](#) by Thomas Hardy
15. [The Scarlet Pimpernel](#) by Emmuska Orczy

Western

1. [Western Writers of America Spur Awards](#)
2. Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry ([Kindle Version](#))
3. All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy ([Kindle Version](#)) – Winner of National Book Award for Fiction (1992), National Book Critics Circle Award (1992))
4. Riders of the Purple Sage by Zane Grey ([Kindle Version](#))
5. True Grit by Charles Portis ([Kindle Version](#))
6. Old Yeller by Fred Gipson ([Kindle Version](#)) – Newbery Honor (1957)
7. The Horse Whisperer by Nicholas Evans ([Kindle Version](#))
8. Dances with Wolves by Michael Blake ([Kindle Version](#))
9. [The Virginian: A Horseman of the Plains](#) by Owen Wister
10. When Calls the Heart by Janette Oke ([Kindle Version](#))
11. The Quick and the Dead by Louis L'Amour ([Kindle Version](#))
12. The Way West by A.B. Guthrie, Jr. (Pulitzer Prize Winner) [Amazon](#)
13. Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner (Pulitzer Prize Winner) [Kindle Version](#)
14. [My Antonia](#) by Willa Cather
15. [The Prairie](#) by James Fenimore Cooper

Historical Fiction

1. [Historical Novel Society Awards](#)

2. [Gone With The Wind](#) by Margaret Mitchell ([Kindle Version](#))
3. [The Three Musketeers](#) by Alexandre Dumas
4. [War and Peace](#) by Leo Tolstoy
5. [The Last of the Mohicans](#) by James Fenimore Cooper
6. [A Tale of Two Cities](#) by Charles Dickens
7. [Uncle Tom's Cabin](#) by Harriet Beecher Stowe
8. [The Color Purple](#) by Alice Walker ([Kindle Version](#))
9. [For Whom The Bell Tolls](#) by Ernest Hemingway ([Kindle Version](#))
10. [The Lost Crown](#) by Sarah Miller ([Kindle Version](#))
11. [The Devil's Arithmetic](#) by Jane Yolen ([Kindle Version](#))
12. [Les Misérables](#) by Victor Hugo
13. [The Book Thief](#) by Markus Zusak ([Kindle Version](#))
14. [Joan of Arc](#) by Mark Twain ([Kindle Version](#))
15. [The Year of the Hangman](#) by Gary Blackwood ([Kindle Version](#))

Fantasy & Science Fiction

1. [Hugo Awards](#) (for excellence in Science Fiction or Fantasy)
2. [The Lord of the Rings](#) (series of 3) by J.R.R. Tolkien ([Kindle Version](#))
3. [The Chronicles of Narnia](#) (series of 7) by C.S. Lewis ([Kindle Version](#))
4. [The Wonderful Wizard of Oz](#) by L. Frank Baum
5. [A Wrinkle in Time](#) by Madeleine L'Engle ([Kindle Version](#))
6. [A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court](#) by Mark Twain
7. [The Neverending Story](#) by Michael Ende ([Amazon](#))
8. [The Once and Future King](#) by T.H. White ([Kindle Version](#))
9. [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) by Lewis Carroll
10. [The War of the Worlds](#) by H.G. Wells
11. [Brave New World](#) by Aldous Huxley ([Kindle Version](#))
12. [The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#) by Douglas Adams ([Kindle Version](#))
13. [Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea](#) by Jules Verne
14. [Don Quixote](#) by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra
15. [Fahrenheit 451](#) by Ray Bradbury ([Kindle Version](#))

Non-Fiction Categories:

Journalism

1. [PBS NewsHour Extra](#)
2. [Christian Science Monitor](#)
3. [George Polk Awards for Journalism – Past Award Winners](#) (scroll down to find articles written by past winners)
4. The Pulitzer Prize for [Feature Writing](#) (scroll down to find articles written by past winners).
5. The Pulitzer Prize for [Investigative Reporting](#) (scroll down to find articles written by past winners).

6. The Pulitzer Prize for [International Reporting](#) (scroll down to find articles written by past winners).
7. The Pulitzer Prize for [Breaking News Reporting](#) (scroll down to find articles written by past winners).
8. [Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi Awards for Excellence in Journalism](#) (The winners from past years are listed on the right.)
9. [The Livingston Awards for Young Journalists](#)
10. [Online Journalism Awards](#) (The winners from past years are listed on the left.)

Blogging and Review Writing

1. [The Best Author Blogs](#)
2. [Ned Erickson's Blog](#)
3. [A Daily Dose of Grace](#)
4. New York Times [Book Reviews](#)
5. NPR [Book Reviews](#)
6. [Barnes & Nobles Reviews & Essays](#)

Technical Writing Areas

1. [Washington University's Technical Writing Awards](#)
2. Grant Proposal Writing: [Examples](#)

Semester 2

For the remainder of this course you will be working toward writing and publishing in your chosen area. Use the provided links and resources as a “how to” guide for your work. Your goal now is to write forty minutes to an hour a day. Just write and write and don't give up. You can edit after you have the words down, but you have to get them down first. You can use the links below to get basic outline ideas of how to get started in most of the areas. Don't spend more than a few days to a week looking through the links below before you get started writing. Remember what you have been reading. Hopefully you've formed some ideas of what you want to pursue. Don't write for the contests below. Write your best and what you're most interested in. Once you've written something worth reading, then you can start looking at places to submit it. You can even publish your work yourself and see it in print. But you have to write something first!

Be careful of gimmicks and unrealistic promises when you are considering submitting your work. Entry fees for publishing award competitions are reasonable, but complete your own research into organizations before you take action. You should look through some of the award programs listed below and see where you may be eligible to submit your own work to these competitions. If you win a contest or get something published, please let us know. Now write!

Writing in General

1. [How to Plan, Write and Develop a Book](#)
 - o Easy Peasy has lessons on writing a book starting at [Day 142](#) and [Day 152](#).
1. [Know Your Genre Before You Write](#)

2. [How to Write Great Dialogue Part 1](#)
3. [How to Write Great Dialogue Part 2](#)
4. [How to Write Effective Supporting Characters](#)
5. [Becoming Your Own Editor](#)
6. [Publishing Your Writing – Colorado State University Writing Guide](#)
7. [Create Space](#) – This is completely free self publishing. See your book in print!
8. [Freelance Writing: Writing Contests](#)
9. [Writer's Digest Annual Writing Competition](#)

Poetry

1. [How to Write Poetry](#)
2. [Writing Poetry](#)
3. [5 Ways: How to Write a Poem](#)
4. [36 Poetry Writing Tips](#)
5. [10 Essential Rules of Poetry](#)
6. [Top 10 tips for being a successful poet](#)
7. [Publishing 101 for Poets \(video presentation\)](#)
8. [Academy of American Poets – Writing & Publishing FAQs](#)
9. [Publish your poetry with the Walt Whitman Award](#)
10. [Prose's \\$100 Challenge of the Week](#)

Children's Literature

1. [Step-by-Step How to Write a Children's Book](#)
2. [The ABCs of Writing For Kids](#)
3. [Top Ten Writing Mistakes Made By New Children's Writers](#)
4. [Writing the Modern Fairy Tale: Use a Twist](#)
5. [20 Tips for Writing Children's Books](#)
6. [Dos and Don't s of Writing for Children](#)
7. [Six Steps to Make Your Children's Story Shine](#)
8. [KidLit411](#)
9. [New Voices Children's Literature Contest](#)
10. [Friends of American Writers Chicago Awards: Young People's Literature Contest](#)

Drama – Playwriting & Screenwriting

1. [How to Write a Play](#)
2. [Playwriting 101](#)
3. [The Writing Center at UNC – Chapel Hill: Drama](#)
4. [Scriptwriting Essentials](#)
5. [Structuring a Scene](#)
6. [How to Create Characters](#)
7. [Building a Plot](#)
8. [How to Write an Unforgettable Scene](#)
9. [Screenwriting Resources – Click on Formatting Guide](#)

10. [The Top Ten Screenwriting Contests](#)

Fiction (Short Story & Novel)

1. [Snowflake Method](#)
2. [7 Things that Will Doom Your Novel](#)
3. [Writing the Perfect Scene](#)
4. [The Writing Center at UNC- Chapel Hill: Fiction](#)
5. [How to Write Fiction that Feels Real](#)
6. [Questionnaires for Writing Character Profiles](#)
7. [The 5 Biggest Fiction Writing Mistakes \(& How to Fix Them\)](#)
8. [Janice Hardy's Fiction University \(This site contains tons of articles on every step of the writing process.\)](#)
9. [Young Lion's Fiction Contest](#)
10. [Nelson Algren Short Story Award](#)

Genre Specific Fiction (Mystery/Suspense, Romance, Western, Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Science Fiction, etc.)

1. [Writing A Fantasy Novel: Useful Websites](#)
2. [How to Write a Mystery Novel](#)
3. [How to Write Historical Fiction](#)
4. [Writing Steampunk: Plots, Characters, Settings & More](#)
5. [9 Tricks to Writing Suspense Fiction](#)
6. [How to Write Science Fiction](#)
7. [W.Y. Boyd Literary Award Contest for Excellence in Military Fiction](#)
8. [Minotaur Books / Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition](#)

Non-Fiction Categories:

Journalism

1. [How to Write a News Story](#)
2. [How to Write an Article](#)
3. [American Press Institute's Journalism Essentials](#)
4. [Georgia Virtual Learning: Journalism](#)
5. [Journalism and Journalistic Writing](#)
6. [Amy Awards](#)

Blogging and Review Writing

1. [The Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill: Blogs](#)
2. [50 Simple Ways to Build Your Platform in 5 Minutes a Day](#)
3. [The Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill: Book Reviews](#)
4. [The Diana Woods Memorial Award in Creative Non-Fiction](#)

Technical Writing Areas

1. [The Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill: Grant Proposals](#)

2. [Tips for Writing & Submitting Good Grant Proposals](#)
3. [Grant Writing 101: Resources for Grant Writers](#)
4. [Writing the Scientific Paper](#)