



DOCTOR OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

The DFA Program in Creative Writing allows established creative writers working within the academic community a chance to earn an advanced academic degree. All the subjects in the program are taken on an individual basis under a mentor, except for the comprehensive and the dissertation, which are graded by the panels.

OBJECTIVES

The program aims to allow established writers a chance to hone their writing skills through a combination of extensive reading assignments, controlled writing exercises and individualized mentoring, to experiment with both traditional and contemporary styles and forms, to receive feedback on their writing strategies, methods and techniques, and to complete a major writing project that will be the cutting edge of creative writing in the world.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The student must have earned Master of Fine Arts degree, major in Creative Writing (MFA Creative Writing), or its equivalent, If the student does not have an MFA, s/he must have at least a bachelor's degree plus one of the following: (1) a first prize from the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards in Literature, (2) a prize in the Centennial Literary Contest, (3) a book in the genre applied for, published by a University Press.

RETENTION REQUIREMENTS

The student chooses on among four genres – fiction, poetry, drama or creative nonfiction. At the end of her/his coursework, the student takes a comprehensive examination which will be take-home, the answers being due a month after the questions are given.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (3 units each)

The student has to finish 24 units in the chosen genre, plus 12 units for dissertation

Directed Readings 1 – Readings in the genre written by Filipino Writers

Directed Readings 2 – Readings in the genre written by writers living in Asia and Australia

Directed Readings 3 – Readings in the genre written by writers living in Africa

Directed Readings 4 – Readings in the genre written by writers living in North America

Directed Readings 5 – Readings in the genre written by writers living in South America

Directed Readings 6 – Readings in the genre written by writers living in Europe

Directed Writing 1 – Elementary writing exercises in the genre (classical short stories for fiction, metered and rhymed poems for poetry, well-made one-act plays for drama, literary essays for creative nonfiction)

Directed Writing 2 – Advanced writing exercises in the genre (modern short stories for fiction, free verse for poetry, experimental plays for drama, autobiography for creative nonfiction)

DISSERTATION

The student has to write a dissertation that should be publishable as a book. The nature of the dissertation depends on the genre of the student.

Genre A: Fiction – the dissertation must be a novel of at least 600 manuscript double-spaced pages of 150,000 words.

Genre B: Poetry – the dissertation must be an epic verse of at least 1,000 lines.

Genre C: Drama – the dissertation must be a trilogy of full-length plays for theater, television, or film, each of which should play for at least two hours.

Genre D: Creative Nonfiction – the dissertation must be a full length literary biography of a dead Filipino Writer, of at least 600 manuscript double-spaced pages or 150,000 words.

The panel to judge the dissertation of the student consists of five experts in the genre: (1) a Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards in Literature Hall of Famer; (2) a National Artist or a Ramon Magsaysay Awardee; (3) a Full Professor from De La Salle University; (4) a Full Professor from a university other than De La Salle University; and (5) an awarded writer from outside the country; the latter if necessary being consulted through electronic mail.

FACULTY

Cirilo F. Bautista, DALL DLSU, Centennial Literary Awardee, Palanca Hall of Famer

Elsa Martinez Coscolluela, DALL DLSU, Centennial Literary Awardee, Palanca Hall of Famer

Isagani R. Cruz, Ph. D. Maryland, Centennial Literary Awardee, SEAWRITE Awardee

F. Sionil Jose, Ph. D. (honoris causa) UP and DLSU, Ramon Magsaysay Awardee, National Artist

Bienvenido L. Lumbera, Ph. D. Indiana, Ramon Magsaysay Awardee, Centennial Literary Awardee

B. S. Medina, Jr. Ph. D. CEU, Centennial Literary Awardee, Palanca Hall of Famer, SEAWRITE Awardee.