



Syllabus

Course Title: Discover Your Muse: England and Scotland Await Your Story

Program and Date: England and Scotland Summer 2026

Academic Department: English

Instructor Name: Bill Mullen

Instructor Email: bill.mullen@eku.edu

Get to Know Your Professor

I've taught abroad in Ireland in 2019 & 2022-24 and the Czech Republic in 2025. Each student left with an unforgettable and positive experience. As a student, I studied abroad in Scotland and Mexico. Learning about the culture, lifestyle, food, and landscape were all amazing, and I strive to help students have a similar if not better experience. In addition to study abroad, I've traveled through most of North and South America, most of Europe, North Africa, Russia, Israel, and Jordan. This course in the UK will be full of exciting adventures, stimulating discussions, and inspiration for all of us and our writing! It will be an unforgettable trip!

Course Description

Find your muse while exploring the rich historical and cultural streets of London and Edinburgh, cities that have inspired and influenced countless authors and poets over centuries. This class will take you through ancient churches and castles, across beautiful and mystic landscapes, and into historic pubs and theaters where iconic music and drama still flourish. From the Tower of London to Edinburgh Castle, and from the bustling city streets of London to the medieval streets of Edinburgh, we'll focus on multiple forms of creative writing, including the fundamentals of the short story, poetry, and creative non-fiction, followed by the focused study of one specific genre of writing. You'll also engage in critiquing and workshopping student work, delve into literature influenced by the region, and discover how authors have been inspired by these unique places.

Course Level and Credit Hours

300-Level and 3 credit hours

Prerequisite(s)

None



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Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

- *Understand and demonstrate the basic techniques of creative writing in multiple genres
- *Write within the genre(s) of their choice (short story, poetry collection, sudden fiction collection, creative non-fiction, drama, or travel writing)
- *Participate in workshopping creative works
- *Analyze local (British & Scottish) texts through the lens of a writer
- *Write creative works inspired by international travel and experience

Required Readings and Materials

1. *Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief* by David Starkley (4th Edition)
2. *On Writing* by Stephen King

Materials: Laptop, Physical Journal

Assignments and Grades

Intro Materials	05%
Journal	30%
Creative Work	30%
Workshop	10%
Active Participation	25%

Explanation of Graded Assignments:

Intro Materials: Students will introduce themselves in a paragraph (interests, why the UK, the kind of creative writing they enjoy, favorite reads, etc.), complete a brief syllabus quiz, and submit one creative piece of their choice (to the professor only) before the class begins.

Journal: Students will keep a hand-written daily journal of their experience in the UK, inspiration and creative ideas about writing, how they feel they are growing as a writer, personal experiences, etc.

Creative Works: 4 creative works will be assigned. Each work will be a completed creative piece (short story, 5 pages of poetry, 5 pages of sudden fiction, or a personal essay/creative non-fiction piece).

Workshop: Students will read, critique, and discuss classmates' work (respectfully).

Active Participation: Participation includes (but is not limited to) class attendance, contributing meaningful dialogue to class discussion, paying attention and taking notes, and attending and participating in class excursions and activities.



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Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

Work will be graded on this scale:

90 – 100 A 80 – 89 B 70 – 79 C 60 – 69 D Below 60 F

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following site visits. This is a tentative list, which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

England

- *Les Misérables* play
- Stonehenge
- Major London sites: Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, The Globe Theatre, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, and more.
- Day Trip to Bath, Oxford, or Wales
- Others TBA

Scotland

- Edinburgh Castle
- Arthur's Seat
- Portobello Beach
- Royal Mile (including Holyrood Palace)
- Day trip to the Highlands (TBA for specifics)
- Others TBA

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings, as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Students are expected to be punctual (on time) to all meetings and activities. Unexcused absences and tardiness will result in a participation grade deduction.

Academic Integrity Policy

All student work should be original and created by the student. Students may not use any form of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the course. All creative works and workshop feedback should be created by and written by the student independently and with no assistance or use of any form of AI. Use of AI in our course is considered academic dishonesty and will cause your grade on the assignment to fall to a zero score.



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Physical Expectations

The program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

Be sure to bring broken-in walking shoes and an umbrella. Especially in Scotland, be prepared to walk up and down hills and stairs.

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student, or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.