

Fandom, Fan Fiction & the Writer's Path (WRIT 410 A01)



Times/dates: 2:30-3:50pm Mondays & Thursdays, Jan-April 2021

CRN: 22944

[Click here for registration details](#)

Course description:

Millions of words, countless stories, numerous novels and even some notable traditional publishing deals have sprung from online fanfiction. Many writers discovered their own voice while “borrowing” someone else’s world and characters. Following an overview of the evolution of fanfiction through history, we will look at the psychology of literary fandoms and at how creative and critical reading naturally merge in the participatory culture of fanfiction.

We will also examine fanfiction’s place as an important, complex (and often controversial) literary subculture and increasingly legitimate literary genre. We will look at how social media has changed the fundamental relationship between readers and writers, created connected communities and, in some cases, has allowed fictional worlds to flourish where otherwise they may have floundered.

Finally, by crafting our own fanfiction, we will explore how we—as writers—can creatively interact with an existing work in a way that precipitates something new and wholly unique.

Proposed reading:

- selected fanfiction

Proposed text:

- [Fic: Why Fanfiction Is Taking Over the World](#) by [Anne Jamison](#) (Smart Pop, 2013)
- [The Fanfiction Reader: Folk Tales for the Digital Age](#) by [Francesca Coppa](#) (University of Michigan Press, 2017)

Proposed assignments:

- Online engagement/exercises (25%)
- One essay (30%)
- One fanfiction writing assignment (45%)