Jiménez-Porter Writers’ House Handbook

(Revised March 2015)

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Jiménez-Porter Writers’ House Mission:

- **to act as the vibrant literary hub of the University of Maryland, College Park campus** via public reading series, publication of a literary journal, and other outreach activities including literary study abroad opportunities, etc.

- **to foster a successful literary community in residence at University of Maryland, College Park** – a successful literary community being one that strives to be supportive of all members, academically, socially, and creatively.

- **to study and support creative writing in its cross-cultural dimensions** – to maintain this focus in *who we are* (recruitment, admissions, staffing), *what we study* (curriculum), and *what we produce* (Stylus, The Writers’ Bloc, the Series, etc).
Writers’ House Literary Community (Non-Curricular Program)

Writers’ House Literary Community (WHLC) students share an interest in reading and writing, and live in Queen Anne’s Hall. These students are not pursuing a Writers’ House Notation on their transcript, and they are therefore exempt from all curricular requirements. Writers’ House Literary Community students are eligible to participate in all Writers’ House social activities including field trips, retreats, Stylus (including leadership positions), Terpoets (including leadership positions), visiting author series (Writers’ Here and Now Q and A, and reception, in addition to the reading series), the Litfest Contest, etc. WHLC students have full access to the Jellema Collection and to the Production Lab. WHLC participants are required to attend Litfest, and are encouraged to join literary committees (see p. 8) and take on leadership roles.

Writers’ House Literary Community students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above may be cleared for registration for Writers’ House credit-bearing courses ARHU 309, ARHU 318, and ARHU 319 if space is available and at the Director’s discretion. ARHU 320 is reserved for Writers’ House notation seeking students. A WHLC member with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above may decide to pursue a Writers’ House Notation.

Writers’ House Literary Community is not available for non-residential students.

Curricular Requirements in Summary for the Notation Track (Curricular Program)

Notation Track students must have a 3.0 or above GPA upon entry to the program. Students with a GPA less than 3.0 may participate and live at Queen Anne’s Hall as Writers’ House Literary Community members. Notation Track students may decide to switch to being Writers’ House Literary Community members, if their schedules do not accommodate the curricular requirements of the Notation Track, their GPA falls to below a 3.0, or for other reasons.

Notation Track students may elect to pursue either a one or two year course of study in the Writers’ House. Notation Track students who wish to fulfill all requirements in one year must speak to the Director to receive clearance for all courses. Students will be asked to declare their intention to return for a second year in the spring of the first year. In some cases because of a student’s academic schedule (including study abroad and/or double majoring) a student may “stretch out” her or his residency with Writers’ House to a third year. In such cases a special arrangement will be made with the Director.

1. Curricular Requirements for First Year/Notation Track
   - Two one-credit colloquia taken in fall and spring (Fall: ARHU 309; Spring: 318a, b, or c). All colloquia include attendance to the Writers Here and Now Series and one or two other social events per semester. ARHU 309 and 318 culminate in an end of the year Portfolio.
   - One three-credit creative writing course, cross-cultural literary, or foreign-language/writing course from an approved list, taken in fall or spring. (See pages 3 and 4 for a list)
   - Membership and involvement in a Writers’ House or other campus literary committee as described in detail on page 7 of this document.
• Attendance at Litfest
• All courses must be completed with a grade of B- or better to be eligible for Notation.
• Students who earn less than a B- in a Writers’ House colloquium may not be cleared for registration for the following Notation Track class, at the Director’s discretion.

2. Curricular Requirements for 2nd Year/Notation Track
Successful completion of One-Year Residency, plus, during the course of the second year or third year:
• Two three-credit colloquia (ARHU 319, ARHU 320). Students attend the Writers’ Here and Now Series as a part of their coursework. The culminating project for ARHU 320 is a self-published chapbook. ARHU 275 may be taken in lieu of ARHU 319 if the student is interested in pursuing screenwriting or playwrighting.
• Membership and involvement in a Writers’ House or other campus literary committee as described in detail on page 7 of this document.
• Attendance and public display of chapbook at Litfest
• All courses must be completed with a grade of B- or better to be eligible for Notation.
Curricular Requirements in Detail for the Notation Track:

1. Three-Credit Supporting Course Options (necessary for Year One only):

Students are required to take one outside three-credit course in creative writing during the first year of residency. Please see the list of Approved Courses (below). This list is not exhaustive, as the University Schedule of Courses is continually expanding. Additions and exceptions to the list are often made, if the requested course falls within programmatic parameters. All exceptions must be approved by the Program Director. Students pursuing the notation must complete the three-credit courses while in their first year of residence.

Approved Courses
AAST 398B: Asian American Literature of the 21st Century
AAST 398L: Selected Topics in Asian American Studies: Asian Americans in Film
ARHU 350: Chilean Literature, Democracy, and Social Change (Winter Education Abroad)
ARHU269I or 351: James Joyce’s Dublin (Summer Education Abroad program)
Any course listed with a CMLT (Comparative Literature) prefix. Examples are:
CMLT 235: Black Diaspora Literature and Culture
CMLT 270: Global Literature and Social Change
CMLT 275: World Literature by Women
CMLT 277: Literatures of the Americas
CMLT 285: American Indians in Literature and Film: Perspectives North and South
EDCI 386A: Experiential Learning – The Chillum Internship Project
EDCP 498: TOTUS Spoken Word Experience
ENGL 233: Introduction to Asian American Literature
ENGL 234: African-American Literature and Culture
ENGL 250: Reading Women Writing
ENGL 265: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Literatures
ENGL 271: Introduction to Creative Writing (covers both poetry and fiction writing)
ENGL 274: Creative Writing Through the Eyes of African Americans: A Beginning Workshop
ENGL 272: Introduction to Fiction Writing
ENGL 273: Introduction to Poetry Writing
ENGL 275/ARHU275: Writing to be Seen: Scriptwriting for Theatre, Film, and Television
ENGL 289Z: Global Migrations
ENGL 293: Writing in the Wireless World
ENGL 317: African American Literature
ENGL 329C: Special Topics in Film Studies: Sexuality in the Cinema
ENGL 339A: Native American Literatures
ENGL 348F: Literary Works by Women
ENGL 352: Intermediate Fiction Writing
ENGL 353: Intermediate Poetry Writing
ENGL 358C: Special Topics in U.S. Latina/o Literature
ENGL 362: Caribbean Literature in English
ENGL 368D: Special Topics in the Literature of Africa and African Diaspora
ENGL 379C: Special Topics in Literature; Literature and Film of the Civil Rights Movement
ENGL 379J: Special Topics in Literature; Representing the Holocaust
ENGL 379V: Special Topics in Literature: Gypsy Culture
ENGL 388D: Writing Internship; Dickinson Electronic Archives
ENGL 408B: Literature by Women Before 1800; The Battle of the Sexes
ENGL 448A: Literature by Women of Color; Caribbean Literature by Women
ENGL 465: Theories of Sexuality in Literature
ENGL 472: African-American Literature: 1945 to Present
ENGL 479V: Selected Topics in English and American Literature after 1800: Aesthetes, Decadents, and the New Women
ENGL 498: Advanced Fiction Writing
ENGL 499: Advanced Poetry Writing
FREN 241: Imaginary and Memory in the Reality of “Francophone” African Film from 1960-present
JAPN 316: Women and Japanese Literature
JOUR 487: Literary Journalism
LGBT 327: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies in Film and Video
PERS 283: Iranian Cinema
RUSS 221, 222: Masterworks of Russian Literature I and II (respectively).
SPAN 202, 206, 207, 301,302,306,316,317,318,356,357,401,402 (these courses require writing in Spanish)
THET 341: Screenwriting 1
THET 499: Independent Study: Advanced Playwriting

Other possible courses to consider:
• Practicum in Translation, such as FREN 302: many language departments offer courses in the translation of literary works. Students should contact program coordinator for approval.
• Independent Study, such as ENGL 429 or SPAN 399: most departments offer an independent study. Jiménez-Porter students might consider proposing an Independent study in creative writing. Students should contact individual departments for permission and obtain approval from program coordinator.
• Honors thesis: most departments offer the option of completing an honors thesis. Jiménez-Porter students might consider proposing a creative writing thesis. Students should contact individual departments for permission and obtain approval from program coordinator.
2. Culminating Projects: Portfolios and Chapbooks/Notation Track

YEAR ONE Culminating Project: Portfolio
A portfolio is a compilation of your accomplishments and professional/scholarly development. It allows potential employers, graduate schools, scholarship boards, or others to assess your skills and aptitudes. In choosing the content of your portfolio, be selective. Include only your best work. The portfolio is the culminating project of year one in the Writers’ House program and as such, its contents will be used to assess your development. Students will work in conjunction with the faculty in developing and refining the portfolio, and will be expected to submit the final version towards the end of the spring semester.

Portfolio Requirements:
1. The portfolio is a gathering and arrangement of NEW work, written during the year of residency/membership in the JP Writer’s House.

2. The introduction is placed after the cover page and table of contents. The introduction is an analytical essay preceding the main body of the portfolio. It should address the process of writing, revising, selecting and arranging the portfolio contents. Include specific examples and discussion of your influences, strengths, challenges, and development as a writer during this year. The introduction should be 2-3 pages long, double-spaced.

3. The main body of the portfolio should consist of at least:
   a) 10-15 poems/pages of poetry OR
   b) 20-30 pages of imaginative prose, OR
   c) a combination of both (e.g. 7-10 pages of poetry plus 10-15 pages of fiction).

4. Students may include 5-10 pages of translation work, critical prose or creative work produced in other courses during the academic year. These pages count towards the total number required.

5. Students who wish to write in a language other than English should meet with their portfolio advisor to determine appropriate page requirements.
YEAR TWO Culminating Project for Notation Track Students: Chapbook

Residents will work towards the completion of a short collection of poetry or imaginative prose; they will compose, revise, and edit their work in preparation for publishing the collection as a limited edition, desktop-produced, single-genre chapbook. The content of the chapbook will be reviewed in consultation with an advisor. Those who wish to collect more than one genre may do so on a case-by-case basis and with the approval of the portfolio advisor and/or director. The chapbook may include poems and prose written during the entire residency at Writers’ House. The chapbook will be publicly displayed at Litfest. The requirements for the chapbook are as follows:

**Poetry:** 25 pages (15 Spanish/foreign language), half of which must be new work from 2nd year Writers’ House coursework. The remaining half could be drawn (in consultation with advisor) from any college course taken during residency.

**Imaginative Prose:** 40-50 pages (25 if writing in Spanish or another foreign language). The chapbook may be single or multi-genre incorporating short story/ies, novella, play, one-act play, screenplay, chapters towards a novel, etc. Half must be new work from 2nd year Writers’ House coursework. The remaining half could be drawn (in consultation with advisor) from any college course taken during residency.
3. **House Activities and Participation/Notation Track:**
Writers’ House Notation Track students are required to participate on one Writers’ House or other campus committee that makes a significant contribution to UMD’s literary culture.

**Committees include:**
- Stylus Staff (UMD’s literary journal)
- TerPoets Organizers (weekly open mic series) and/or Slam team.
- Litfest Organizers (Literary festival organization),
- Writers’ House Ambassadors (Recruitment and Publicity),
- The Paper Shell Review (undergraduate journal of essays on literary topics)
- Any new student initiative approved by the Director for this purpose.
- The Writers’ Bloc (Writers’ House literary newsletter/website)
- Creative Writing Club
- English Undergraduate Association (Leadership position)
- Novel Writers’ Support Group
- Students holding positions of significant responsibility on the Diamondback staff (such as editorial positions) will be exempt from this requirement.

4. **Literary Festival /Notation Track:**
Litfest, a student organized literary festival, is held each spring to showcase student work. The Jiménez-Porter Literary Prize for Undergraduate Writers is awarded during the year-end reading. The new Stylus is released. Litfest serves as a culminating celebration of students’ efforts and underscores the important presence of the house on campus. Attendance is required for all Writers’ House Notation Track and Writers’ House Literary Community students.
Non-Residential Policy:

The Jiménez-Porter Writers’ House is a Living-Learning Program; it is mandated, funded and thrives as such. However, in certain cases, we allow a number of writers per year to participate as non-residents.

- Students must seek status as non-residential students \textit{at the time of admission} only. Otherwise, acceptance into the program signifies a commitment as a resident, to the Jiménez-Porter Writers’ House for the entire first year of the program. \textit{No mid-year non-residential requests will be accepted.} If a student must move out of the house mid-year, they must, unfortunately, drop the program.

- The staff of the house will review the applications for non-residentiality and make a determination based upon merit and need.

- Third-year Undergraduate Teaching Assistants and are exempt from the Non-Residential Policy.

- Rising second-year students who wish to live elsewhere will notify the Director in their Intent to Return form, which will be sent to them in March of their first year.
[JPWH Handbook Addendum #2]

Pledge of Commitment

Students enrolled in the Notation Track at the Jiménez-Porter Writers’ House sign the following Pledge of Commitment upon entering the program. Failure to meet these requirements and policies may jeopardize student housing and standing in the program. A student who fails to meet the requirements and policies of the program may be asked to leave the program. A student who is asked to leave the program is not eligible for notation on the transcript.

Pledge of Commitment

By signing below, I pledge to uphold the expectations and requirements of the Jiménez Porter Writer’s House as outlined below

--Students enrolled in Writers’ House must take and pass (with “B-” or better) the required Writers’ House course in each semester of residency. They must meet all requirements and policies of each Writers’ House course, as stated in the course syllabus/course policies

--First year students will complete ARHU309 and ARHU318A, B, or C (one credit each)

--Second year students will complete ARHU319 or ARHU275 and ARHU320 (three credits each for a total of 6 credits).

--Students must complete a three-credit course in a supporting area during their first year of residency (three credits). Course(s) must be selected from approved list or receive Director’s approval.

--Students must live in Queen Anne’s Hall for at least their first year of the program.

--Students must demonstrate participation in the Writers’ House community by actively serving on one Writers’ House or campus literary committee.

--Students must commit themselves to uphold the mission of the Writers’ House living-learning program, which aims to foster a strong community conducive to learning. Students are the foundation of this program and its success depends upon their ability and willingness to treat community members with respect and civility in and outside of class. In particular, students must come prepared to offer constructive, balanced feedback on all peer writing.

Applicant Signature____________________________________    Date____________________