

What to expect in our online MFA classes:

- Our online MFA students are required to participate in classes in Canvas a minimum of three times per week. Several deadlines will be given throughout each week, and students will complete their work before each deadline on the days and at the times that work best with their schedule. Students do not need to all be online at the same time. (The only exception at this time is in our Writers' Lives class, which offers several Skype sessions for discussions/Q&As with authors.)
- An example of assignment deadlines for a literature class would be to view your reading assignment in Canvas on Monday; then to post your primary response to the reading in the discussion thread by Wednesday night; then over the week and weekend, to read posts by other students and the instructor, responding to a minimum of five other posts to continue the discussion; then to complete a journal entry (viewable only by the instructor) by Sunday night. This is just an example week—each class type (workshop, craft, literature) and each instructor will have assignments and instructions that are appropriate for the course's subject material and class goals.
- The time commitment required for each class will vary depending on class type (for example, a literature class requires more reading time and analysis posts; a workshop class requires more creative writing work and workshop responses). The flexibility of being able to post before deadlines at the time that works best for you during the week should allow the coursework to be manageable for your schedule.
- Most of our online students take two classes per term, but it is fine to take one class per term. It is allowed but not recommended to take three classes per 8-week term. If you receive a student loan/financial aid, you will need to take at least two classes across two 8-week terms for loan eligibility (6 credit hours over the course of 16 weeks).
- Be sure to read the etiquette information in the Class Requirements module in your classes. MFA students should be respectful to each other and to the instructor, and should give feedback on others' writing in the same way they would wish to receive feedback about their own work--respectful, insightful responses about what is working well and what areas could use additional revision or development. Please help us maintain a supportive and helpful writing community in our online classes.