**Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing**

**Campus Coordinator**

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**NEOMFA Director**

Mike Geither  
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**Program Description**

The Master of Fine Arts program at Youngstown State University is part of the Northeast Ohio Universities Master of Fine Arts (NEOMFA) in Creative Writing. The NEOMFA is a multidisciplinary, interdepartmental, and interinstitutional program that provides opportunities for students to pursue the terminal degree in creative writing. The NEOMFA draws its faculty from departments at Youngstown State University, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, and The University of Akron.

This program offers workshops in poetry writing, fiction writing, creative nonfiction writing, and playwriting, as well as courses in literature, literary craft and theory, and professional writing and editing. The M.F.A. prepares graduates to pursue opportunities in arts management; in many areas of communication, publicity, and marketing; and in teaching creative writing, literature, and expository writing. Graduates of the program are ready to contribute to the literary life of the nation and the cultural life of the community. The program requires 48 semester hours of coursework.

**Faculty Research Interests**

Christopher Barzak, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of English  
Fiction  
Youngstown State University

Marya Bednerik, Ph.D., Professor of Theatre  
Playwriting  
Kent State University

Mary Biddinger, M.F.A., Ph.D., Associate Professor of English  
Poetry  
The University of Akron

Philip Brady, Ph.D., Professor of English  
Poetry; creative nonfiction  
Youngstown State University

Mike Geither, M.F.A., Associate Professor of English  
Playwriting  
Cleveland State University

David Giffels, M.A., Assistant Professor of English  
Creative Nonfiction  
The University of Akron

Adrienne Gosselin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English
African-American literature; American literature; creative writing
Cleveland State University

**William Greenway**, Ph.D., Professor of English
Poetry
Youngstown State University

**Robert Miltner**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English
Poetry
Kent State University

**Varley O’Connor**, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of English
Fiction and creative nonfiction
Kent State University

**Craig Paulenich**, M.F.A., Ph.D., Professor of English
Poetry
Kent State University

**Robert Pope**, M.F.A., Professor of English
Fiction
The University of Akron

**Imad Rahman**, M.F.A., Associate Professor of English
Fiction
Cleveland State University

**Steven Reese**, Ph.D., Professor of English
Poetry
Youngstown State University

**Eric Wasserman**, M.F.A., Associate Professor of English
Fiction
The University of Akron

**Catherine Wing**, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of English
Poetry
Kent State University

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the minimum School of Graduate Studies and Research admissions requirements, applicants must submit three letters of recommendation and a substantive portfolio of creative work that includes either 15 to 20 pages of poetry or 30 pages of fiction, creative nonfiction, or playwriting. All portfolios must include at least one finished work. All items in the portfolio should be double-spaced. The letters of recommendation should come from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic or professional background. The letters should include an assessment of the applicant's current work quality and ability to successfully complete graduate training. Application to the M.F.A. program authorizes staff members at participating institutions to have access to all student academic records and application materials.

The NEOMFA program accepts students for fall admission only.

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

All M.F.A. students must complete 48 semester hours in graduate-level courses. There are six areas of coursework in the M.F.A.: writing workshops (15 semester hours), craft and theory courses (nine semester hours), literature courses (six semester hours), internship (three semester hours), electives (nine semester hours), and thesis (six semester hours). The thesis must be submitted according to the general requirements established by the School of Graduate Studies and Research. The student is required to defend the thesis in an oral presentation before a
committee of graduate faculty from a minimum of two consortium schools.

**ADVISING**

All students should have their schedules approved by a graduate faculty advisor every semester. After initial enrollment in the program, the student and his or her advisor will establish a coursework plan including alternate course selections. An advisor may be chosen from the faculty of any consortium school.